

First Published 1802
Church House
Jokes are
at home
Most natural thing
in the world
For "legale" there's
papal legate. Dr. P...
the Church of England
the Sec of Rome
idea Father Brindley
find outrageous. It's
the most natural thing
in the world.
It was a clever
archbishopal rib...
Dr. Runcie's
after all were
legates and his
Church today
polly Runcie
ask
a "legale" nor did
Simon get up
excuse me, who
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And among
and Brindley's
England there
anxiety about
with reports in
about defection
direction. So the
that touch of
around which
need
The public
course looked
baffled. That is
are about
Clifford Long

THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow

Freud on trial
More secrets from the psychoanalyst's couch

Border skirmish
Can Britain's tiny television stations survive?

College style
Too much razzmatazz at student fashion shows?

Peak performance
Into the mountains with the Tour de France

Portfolio

Saturday's £20,000 weekly prize in the Times Portfolio competition was shared by three winners. Mr David Lewis, of Dinas Powis, South Glamorgan, Mr Laurence Macrow of Chalfont St Giles, and Mr James Plum of Rugby. Each receives £6,666.

The winner of the daily competition was Mr Colin Cunniff, of West Bridgeford, Nottingham, who receives £2,000.

Portfolio list, page 16. Rules and how to play, information service, back page.

ITV seeking approval for new service

Independent television companies are to seek approval from the Independent Broadcasting Authority for a morning television service, running from the closure of TV-am to the present midday opening time thus bringing closer 24-hour television. Educational programmes would be moved to Channel 4 and there is likely to be a bias towards housewives and children. Page 3

Call-up plan

One school of thought at the highest levels in the Services believes it may become necessary to raise local defence units by selective conscription. Page 2

Mugabe's goal

Mr Robert Mugabe emerged from his election victory in Zimbabwe more determined than ever to achieve a one-party state. Page 5

Opec accord

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Nations, Opec, is to leave its pricing structure for world oil unchanged, but has agreed to develop production quotas system. Page 17

Vietnam offer

US officials said an offer by Hanoi to hand over the remains of 20 Americans missing since the Vietnam war within the next eight weeks was "extremely positive". US doubts, page 8

Gandhi attack

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, has again risked angering Pakistan by insisting that it was close to making a nuclear weapon. Page 7

Picquet prevails

Nelson Picquet, of Brazil, won the French Grand Prix at Le Castellet, his first victory since last season. Keke Rosberg, of Finland, was second. Page 21

Britons beaten

Petra Felke, the world record holder, outclassed the two Britons, Tessa Sanderson and Fanny Williams, in the javelin during the international match in Birmingham. Steve Ovett won the 3,000 metres. Earlier report page 19

Leader page 13

Letters: On gas privatization from Mr A. Sykes; local government expenditure from Mr C. Heginbotham and others; technology research from Professor P. B. Felgett

Leading articles: NHS consultants: Sir Geoffrey Howe in Brazil

Features, page 10-12

David Owen on the need for a new nuclear test ban; Austria's socialism withering: why the Radnor pliers got it wrong; Spectrum: did Freud slip? Monday Page: life with Dali

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La crémie de la crémie; educational

Obituary, page 14

Lord Energlyn, Dr Jan de Quay

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THE TIMES

MONDAY JULY 8 1985

Lawson may be defeated on spending targets

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, faces a forced retreat, if not defeat, in Thursday's Cabinet discussion on next year's spending targets in spite of his insistence yesterday: "There is no U-turn at all. The strategy continues as it always has done."

The mood of Cabinet ministers and senior backbench Conservatives yesterday was that there should be "no panic" after last week's government humiliation in the Brecon and Radnor by-election.

Cabinet colleagues were pointing out that Mr Lawson's weekend speech, proclaiming the "middle way" on public spending, marked a welcome softening of the Chancellor's hard-nosed image.

Mr Lawson said in a BBC Radio interview yesterday that the Government was spending more money, "deliberately but carefully", on defence, law and order, the National Health Service and school pupils, while ensuring that there was enough scope for the pledged cut in the burden of income tax.

Cabinet ministers will be quick to exploit Mr Lawson's belated conversion to social Conservatism by making sure that Thursday's Downing Street meeting endorses an expenditure programme which protects electorally-sensitive services.

While ministers want tax cuts, particularly for the low paid, they believe that Mr Lawson's new-found middle way will force a compromise on public spending which would be a significant step into the Treasury's cherished £6,000 million contingency reserve; the built-in cushion for next year's £138.7 billion spending target.

Every effort will therefore be made to provide the Opposition with no ammunition to explode the new, carefully-cultivated message that spending is actually increasing and that services like health, social services, education and pensions are being boosted under the Conservatives.

The importance of that message was underlined by a Gallup poll in yesterday's *Sunday Telegraph*, which indicated that in spite of the Government's record, a high majority of voters believed that too little was being spent on the health service (76 per cent); education and schools (74 per cent); pensions (70 per cent); and roads (63 per cent).

Defence was the only area in which most people thought that too much was being spent (53 per cent), which could increase the pressure on Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, in talks with the Treasury on next year's spending bids.

But it would be a mistake to interpret a Treasury retreat on other spending programmes as an indicator of government panic. Ministers believe that with two years to go to an election, they are on course for a reduction in unemployment and that tax cuts will be achieved in next year's Budget.

Perhaps more importantly, they also believe that the new family credits, to be paid through the wage packets of the low-paid after the 1987 Budget, will be an important vote-winner in the run-up to the election.

Meanwhile, suggestions that Mrs Margaret Thatcher is under threat or that (she) will accelerate her reshuffle, or even make it more sweeping, were being authoritatively dismissed.

The Prime Minister has every intention of fighting the next election and she remains impregnable.

Whichever sources said that the reshuffle was still set for September. There was no question of an August shuffle because changes would break into well-deserved holidays.

Senior Cabinet sources also dismiss any suggestion that Mrs Thatcher might embark on sweeping Cabinet changes in an attempt to reverse present party fortunes. Mrs Thatcher is determined not to repeat Mr Harold Macmillan's disastrous "night of the long knives".

Certainly, Mr Lawson showed every confidence that he would be kept in post up to the election when he was interviewed on the *World This Week*.

He said that his policies were creating the most successful economy in Western Europe, with high growth, mounting investment, increasing living standards and a confident expectation that inflation would fall below 3 per cent next year.

He said: "Our presentation clearly has got to be improved, and it will be consistently improved." But he said of Brocon: "The important thing is firm leadership which does keep its nerve and doesn't allow itself to be knocked off course by an event such as this."

Wimbledon acclaims champion Becker

By David Miller

Boris Becker of West Germany, who will not be 18 until November, yesterday proved himself the most exceptional young tennis player since Lew Hoad emerged as a teenager in the early 1950s. Hoad did not win Wimbledon until he was 21. Bjorn Borg until he was 20. The youngest ever was Wilfred Baddeley in 1891, at the age of 19.

In a sunlit men's singles final lasting three hours 18 minutes, Becker overpowered Kevin Curren, the South African-American who had earlier defeated the former champions, McEnroe and Connors. Becker won 6-3, 6-7, 7-6, 6-3.

Becker's service three times Curren's first loss of his service in four matches - and hit 21 aces to Curren's 19.

Becker is the first German to win the title. Wilhelm Bungert lost in 1967 to John Newcombe and Baron Von Cramm lost three times in succession in the 1930s. "This is going to change tennis in Germany," Becker said. "I am the first Wimbledon winner and now they have a hero." He is not without confidence.

The prize money of £130,000 more than doubled Becker's total of £110,000 for his brief career. Curren, dropping his first service of the match on a double fault, was clearly the more nervous, so seemed at times not so much to have tennis elbow as locked knees.

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Speed and mobility were the keys. They worked the boy until he was so tired he fell over. Yesterday that diligence turned Becker, and probably Tiriac and Bosch, into potential millionaires.

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It was on a recommendation from Bosch, a coach working with the West German tennis federation, that Tiriac travelled specially to Liemen, near Heidelberg, to persuade Karl Heinz Becker, architect and his wife Elvira, to allow their son to leave home.

Continued on back page, col 3

Pit rebels pose challenge to TUC

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The decision by the Nottinghamshire pitmen to leave the National Union of Mineworkers threatened last night to provoke a split throughout the labour movement.

As the county's Labour MPs joined to defend the rebels insisting that their new organization be recognized by the party, some moderate union leaders indicated that an application to join the TUC could not be turned away for ever.

Moves to keep links with the "official" movement however, would face the implacable opposition of the NUM and the strong condemnation of the TUC, whose policy is to refuse to recognize any such "break-away" organization.

Mr David Bassett, chairman of the TUC's finance and general purposes committee, the "inner cabinet", said any application would be "carefully considered", but he did not believe it would be accepted.

Most activists would prefer to see an accommodation with the dissidents, an opinion which will be forcefully represented to Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, at a national executive meeting on Thursday.

But hard-line supporters of Mr Scargill yesterday said they wanted to see a counter-attack against the new "federation" to minimize the proportion of the county's 28,500 miners joining it.

In Sheffield a meeting yesterday of 70 "loyalists" was told by Mr Henry Richardson, the left winger who was ousted as secretary of the Nottinghamshire area, that between 8,000 and 9,000 in the county would remain with the NUM. He said the legal advice indicated that pitmen would have to resign individually to leave the national union.

He issued a warning that there would be a court battle this week over the NUM headquarters in the county which belonged to union members in the area, not the nascent organization.

Meanwhile leaders of the new group, who seem to have been caught unawares by the 238 to 20 vote by an area delegate meeting on Saturday to leave the NUM, will meet today to plan their strategy.

At the top of their agenda will be a constitution for the group and a proposal for attracting both individual miners from outside the county and other NUM areas.

Mr Roy Llynk, the secretary of the Nottinghamshire area, contended that between 75 and 80 per cent of the pitmen would want to be identified with the breakaway association.

Both Mr Llynk and Mr Scargill yesterday claimed that they had received widespread messages of support.

Belgium shares Heysel blame

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The Belgian Government could well lose a motion of "no confidence" at the end of this week as a result of a highly critical parliamentary report on the tragedy in the Heysel football stadium last month when 38 people died.

The 34-page report, published on Saturday, underlines in its first paragraph that "British supporters who carried out the murderous charge... are principally responsible for the dramatic events". But the bulk of the report investigates a whole series of Belgian "oversights, deficiencies and (in)action" which contributed to the drama.

Six of the nine members of the all-party commission of inquiry said that Mr Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb, the Interior Minister, should have been personally responsible for the match arrangement. Five of the commission believed it was impossible to separate political and administrative responsibility. It is on these issues that the no-confidence motion will be debated from next Friday.

If the motion succeeds - and members from the governing coalition parties condemned Mr Nothomb in the report - the Interior Minister could be forced to resign. This would cause an uncomfortable crisis for the Government just five months before a difficult general election.

The report has hard words for UEFA, for the Belgian football union, and above all for paramilitarygendarmes. Only the Brussels police and rescue services emerge with any credit.

The two football bodies are damned for being "inspired more by lucrative and commercial preoccupations" than by the security of the ground. UEFA only spent one hour inspecting the stadium and made no report about what it saw. Sale of tickets to the supposedly neutral area where the tragedy occurred "escaped all control".

Tickets were sold indiscriminately to travel agents, football clubs, and anyone else in a way which inevitably created a black market. This meant Italians were in the stand in force. The result of this was fatal, the report says.

Preparations for the match were "confused" and "light-weight", and led to a series of ambiguous decisions. Meetings to agree arrangements were far too "casual", no proper record was kept of decisions and different people attended at each of the nine pre-match get-togethers. Rescue services were never even invited to come, but attended one meeting of their own initiative.

The ground itself was found to be "dilapidated" with a "crumbling concrete structure". The terraces had not been spread messages of support.

Continued on back page, col 1

Orangemen's parade dismays Dublin

From Tim Jones, Portadown

Relations between the Dublin and British governments suffered another set-back yesterday, when more than 1,000 members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Army enabled the Orange Order to stage its traditional parade through sensitive Roman Catholic republican areas of Portadown, Co Armagh.

The parade, by about 3,000 men, had been allowed to pass through the area after an apparent climbdown by the RUC, whose senior officers had originally said that the march would be re-routed.

Mr Peter Barry, the Irish Republic Minister for Foreign Affairs called the decision a "mistaken judgement" and said there was an incapacity on the part of the RUC to understand nationalist feeling.

The decision by the police, which followed a massive "loyalist" demonstration in the town last week, was meant to be a compromise; they have stated unequivocally that much larger parades through the Roman Catholic areas on Friday and Saturday would not be allowed.

The leader of the Orange Order in Portadown, Mr Allen Wright, whose father, a policeman was murdered by the IRA, repeated his assertion that they would not accept "in any shape or form" a re-routing order.

He said: "If we accept a re-routing this year we are finished, and every Protestant in Ulster realizes that. Our people have awoken from their apathy and you must understand Protestants have civil rights as well. If necessary there will be 100,000 Orangemen here on Friday to defend our rights."

Explaining its decision, the RUC had said that two sinister organizations, the Provisional IRA and the Ulster Volunteer Force intended to exploit the situation for their own ends.

Three people were arrested in minor scuffles during the parade and police turned back two buses and 12 private cars containing "loyalists".

Anti-terror role for the hot line

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Moscow and Washington have agreed to use the "hot line" for urgent consultations if either has information that terrorists or a third country may be about to explode a nuclear weapon, it was revealed at the weekend.

Agreement on this was reached at a meeting in Geneva last month between Soviet and American officials who form the standing consultative commission to discuss arms control. As news leaked out, the State Department issued a vaguely worded confirmation on Friday, saying both sides had an obligation to share information "when that would help preclude misunderstanding which could increase the risk of nuclear war."

Administration officials said the accord was a modest development of a 1971 Soviet-American agreement and reflected increased concern in both Moscow and Washington at the spread of nuclear weapons.

Washington has also been particularly disturbed by the spectre of terrorists or countries backing terrorism trying to acquire such weapons. Libya is often cited as an example.

Mass show of strength by Czechoslovak Catholics

From Richard Bassett, Velehrad, Czechoslovakia

Tens of thousands of Czechoslovak Roman Catholics yesterday defied government hostility to commemorate the 1,00th anniversary of the death of St Methodius.

Ever since plans were made to worship in the Moravian village of Velehrad, where St Methodius, patron saint of the Slavs, lies, the Prague Government has pursued a relentless campaign to play down the religious character of the anniversary.

An invitation to the Pope from the Czech Prime Minister, Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek, was vetoed. Last week, in a move smacking almost of panic, several Primates, including Britain's Cardinal Basil Hume, were suddenly refused visas to attend.

Despite a hastily organized "world peace conference" in Prague to coincide with this weekend's activities in Velehrad, and a string of publications emphasizing the secular aspect of the saint's life, the eyes of all the country's Catholics were focused on this village.

Those who turned up seemed to be mostly young Slovaks, some of whom had walked part of the way from villages in the eastern Carpathians. First aid stations, refreshment centres and nurses to attend them were conspicuously absent. Rosaries, bibles, mineral water and *horovnicka*, a potent spirit made from juniper, sustained many who kept an all-night vigil outside the village church singing hymns.

Authority was well represented by uniformed policemen who, with colleagues in plain clothes, checked identity papers and questioned many of those present. Several brandished cameras in the direction of those who sang hymns the loudest.

Many spoke of the strength Catholicism enjoys in the eastern part of their country, where even party members have children baptised in secret. By dawn dozens of buses had discharged thousands of other pilgrims who struggled to get close to the open air altar at 10am the frail figure of Cardinal Tomasek and the Vatican's envoy, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, appeared to celebrate mass.

Cardinal Casaroli read out a personal message from the Pope regretting his inability to be there in person as well as spirit, but affirming the Catholic legacy of St Methodius, "which will remain for all generations who follow you." Only then was there a spontaneous outburst of cheering from almost every worshipper present.

Speed and mobility the key to his success

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Malpractices in running of council home for elderly alleged in report

A confidential report on the running of a council old people's home shows continuing serious and difficult problems despite all the attention paid to it over the last year.

The report, into the Nye Bevan home in Camberwell, south London, produced by Miss Gladys Miller, group manager of adult care for Southwark borough council, was published at the weekend. Each copy has an individual number, which has been written across every paragraph, apparently in a move to discourage leaks.

Miss Miller was appointed to manage the home for three months, after mounting disquiet over allegations of ill-treatment, bad management and serious staff problems. Matters came to a head when the proceedings of a council committee were made public, and led to an agreement guaranteeing the unions that no member would be disciplined over any matter that had been discussed at the committee.

Part of Miss Miller's brief was to report any subsequent and additional information on malpractices. Among those she mentions are sexual parties in staff quarters; a sexual act

between two visitors in the bar; the removal of a female visitor after an altercation with an officer.

The report does not go into more detail on the allegations but the director of social services is to set up an inquiry and into other inferences made to the group manager during her periods at the home.

The report makes it clear that as well as the staffing problems there are serious physical and social difficulties at the purpose-built home, which was built 17 years ago and has places for 88 residents.

Among many items noted are: a heating system that cannot be controlled by the staff and requires an outside engineer to turn it on or off; radiators so hot that they can burn the elderly residents; pressure on the drains which causes them back up and the basement to smell of effluent; a dormitory area where elderly and disturbed sleep only two in six in a room, and have to use commodes only inches from their neighbours' beds; double bedrooms which are too small; and an alarm system which the residents are unable to use.

When Miss Miller took up her position, the former officer

in charge implied for early retirement and was allowed to leave. The report notes common problems of inadequate supervision of frail and potentially at-risk residents.

She also reports attacks on staff and racist comments from some of the more difficult patients; poor furnishings and comforts; inadequate meal portions; staff leaving whole floors unattended; staff claims for excessive overtime; staff taking leave in order to create overtime for others; and staff going out during the day and leaving residents to look after themselves.

Although Miss Miller reports that the majority of staff are hard working and dedicated and the work they do is demanding and difficult, it is clear that there are still serious problems.

"Minor unpleasantness and a tendency for a small minority of the manual workers to blow up minor problems out of proportion in order to create an atmosphere," are noted.

The report will be discussed by the social services committee tomorrow night and it is understood that the council will implement many of the recommendations, including the expenditure of £100,000.

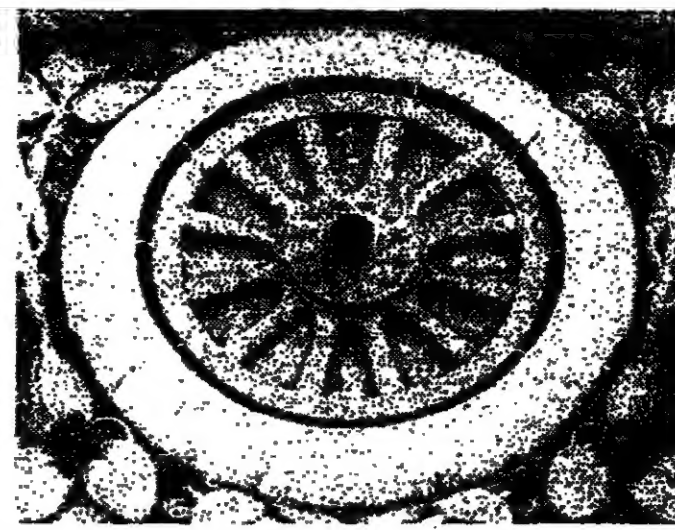
Retread for Michelin House



Michelin House, the Grade II landmark in Chelsea, which is to be refurbished as offices, a retail store and restaurant by its new owners, Sir Terence Conran and Mr Paul Hamlyn (Our Architecture Correspondent writes).

The unusual example of architecture as corporate advertising was built in 1910. It is renowned for its ceramic tiles illustrating the early days of motoring, and use of tyre motifs (right).

The "extensive and sensitive" restoration is being designed by Conran Roche, and YRM Architects and Planners. Conran Design group will design the store and restaurant, and YRM interiors of the office interiors. (Photographs by Peter Triemer.)



Property revival in coal-mining areas

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

While many home-owning miners are concentrating on paying off their debts and mortgage arrears after the traumatic effects of the strike, the latest surveys of the property market in the mining areas show...

For a year the market in the North-East, Yorkshire, the Midlands and South Wales, remained almost stagnant but the past two months has seen a revival. Only in a few cases has there been any increase in prices but the Anglia Building Society, in its survey of the first six months of 1985, reports that it is pleasantly surprised with the results and is "optimistic" about the market.

According to the estate agents Wallhead, Gray and Coates of Sunderland, there is definite movement. Mr Peter Heron, a partner in the firm, admits that prices are not going up at present but says that many more houses are being sold.

Speaking mainly of the Sunderland, Wearmouth and Seaham areas, he says that now money is coming in again a few miners are able to move up market.

"They are usually the younger men, who were probably helped by their family during the strike and are earning good money at the coal face. They are selling their £15,000 cottages which they bought from the coal board at a competitive rate, having modernized them, and

are able to move to modern starter homes on new estates for around £20,000". Mr Heron explains.

However, a large number is trading down, buying a cheaper property to pay off debts, while a significant number is selling and going back on council waiting lists.

Another category is those leaving the industry and moving away, releasing a lot of houses.

By contrast, there is little movement in South Wales. Mr Peter Hales of the Anglia Building Society says it is evident in the mining villages and valleys that whereas the market was fairly active because the industry generated a reasonable income, now it is extremely slow.

Miners on strike either had their mortgage payments frozen or only paid interest and are now paying the rest back.

The Anglia reports that although most building sites in mining districts have been at a standstill since the return to work, there are signs of a revival in demand.

Mr John Warrack, who covers the North, Yorkshire and the Midlands, says that in the Leicester/Hinckley area, the effects have not been as marked as in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire, where the market is "very stagnant".

Prince on fast-jet course



Prince Feisal of Jordan, who arrived at Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, in Lincolnshire, yesterday, to begin a two-year period of training, being greeted by Air Vice-Marshal Eric Macey, the commander (Our Defence Correspondent writes).

A spokesman for the RAF said that the prince would be

joining a course of about 100 students for initial officer training, that would be followed by training on the Jet Provost and Hawk Trainer aircraft.

The prince, who is aged 21, graduated from Brown's University in the United States in May with a degree in electronics. Photograph: Warren Harrison.

Forces may consider selective conscription

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The four most senior officers of the Armed Forces are expected to tell the Prime Minister today that the Services are being over-stretched. There is one school of thought at the highest in the Services which feels that it may become necessary to raise local defence units by selective conscription.

The meeting, at which Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, will be present, will be attended by Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, Chief of the Defence Staff; Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, First Sea Lord; General Sir John Stanier, Chief of the General Staff; and Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Williamson, Chief of the Air Staff.

It is acknowledged that the Services have enjoyed seven good years under the Conservative Government. But it is feared that increasing pressure on servicemen may reduce the attractions of a career in the Armed Forces.

It may also become impossible within budgetary constraints to maintain regular forces of a size to meet all the Services' commitments. Already there is anxiety about the increasing rate at which servicemen are seeking premature release from the forces.

One school of thought at the highest levels of the Services argues that radical solutions may be needed. These could include raising local defence units, although that proposal has not been the subject of any official studies and at this stage does not have any official political backing.

Such units would be based on individual towns, with their members continuing to live at home and serving for perhaps six months, with a working day similar to that in civilian employment.

It is argued that it would be an economical way of increasing service manpower and releasing regulars for other duties. It would make some contribution towards easing the unemployment problem among the young and would rapidly increase the number of people with experience of service life.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher is also expected to be told of continuing concerns about the operation of the new organization of central defence staffs, which Mr Heseltine brought into effect at the beginning of the year.

The reorganization was designed to strengthen the position of the Chief of the Defence Staff at the expense of the individual Services. There is still bitter resentment in some sections of the forces about these changes and a belief that the new structure, in some respects, is not working.

MPs set to rebel over nursery tax

By Our Political Correspondent

A Conservative backbench revolt is expected in the Commons tomorrow over Treasury plans to tax employers' contributions to workplace nurseries which are provided as a direct benefit to employees.

A spokesman for the Workplace Nurseries Campaign said yesterday that the Finance Bill proposal threatened up to 70 nurseries because it could almost double employers' payments to about £40 a week.

Some Conservative MPs are proposing that the new charge should not be introduced at all, but in a move which is expected to attract the backing of more than 30 Tories, one backbench new clause proposes that the benefit should be treated on the same basis as a company car. That proposal could increase the employees' contribution by about £3 a week.

Teaching union to extend strike action over pay

The 127,000-member National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers is to stage its biggest form of strike action in support of the teachers' pay claim when schools go back after the summer holidays.

Since February the union has been operating a series of lightning selective strikes, in which not all members in schools are brought out and the strikes move on to other schools in the area for a few days before returning to the same school at a later date.

Such action is taking place in about 43 local authorities. From October 1 the union's action will be on a national basis, with selective strikes in 104 authorities.

Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the union, said yesterday that other forms of

Prosecution plan attacked

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Prosecuting solicitors would object to losing their independence by acting for the police in seeking extended detention for questioning for up to 96 hours, under the terms of the new Police and Criminal Evidence Act, Mr John Timmons, chairman of the Prosecuting Solicitors Society of England and

Wales said yesterday. Under recommendations for a new Crown Prosecution Service, a crown prosecutor would have to make such applications as a solicitor representing the police. Mr Timmons said that that would be a negation of the whole independent prosecution service.

He said that the recommendations would have to be rejected by the House of Commons.

The timing of the announcement, as much as its content, is likely to infuriate many of the delegates

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Just as the Falklands provided the supreme challenge of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's first administration, so Brecon and Radnor signals the great challenge of her second administration. The comparison is not fanciful just because the circumstances are so different.

The Government would not have won the general election of 1983 if it had failed to meet the challenge of military aggression the year before. Equally, it will not win the next general election if it fails to meet the more insidious challenge that it now faces.

A mid-term by-election defeat is not in itself particularly significant. All the attempts to predict the composition of the next Parliament from this one result are no more than statistical fun and games. What matters much more are the signs of a fundamental change in the political climate.

Ever since Mrs Thatcher came to power she has benefited from two strong underlying trends in public opinion. There has been a mood of economic realism - one could describe it as tough-minded or hard-nosed, according to taste - and a reluctance to blame the Government for unemployment.

All the evidence from Brecon is that neither of these trends is still in force. The British public has never been so converted to Thatcherite economics as to welcome spending cuts. But in recent years there has been a much greater readiness to accept the adage that "you cannot spend what you have not got". Nobody going around the doorsteps of Brecon and Radnor these past few weeks could believe that that is still the attitude.

Defectors' vote boosts Alliance

But time and again one heard spontaneous complaints about the effect of government economies on local services, the drum-beat of criticism on unemployment and resentment at Mrs Thatcher's alleged lack of feeling. What was previously admired as determination is now bemoaned as stubbornness.

Whether the Government can respond to this change in the political climate will critically affect the fortunes of the other parties. That is particularly true of the Alliance. It has won the victory that it needed. That will improve both its own morale and its standing in the eyes of the electorate.

But its success has been won by attracting defectors from the Conservatives and those who switched their votes on tactical grounds - once they realized that the Conservatives could not win. Whether the Liberals can hold either defectors or tactical Tories at a general election will depend more on anything else on the Government's performance in the meantime.

Labour's move back in business. But whether it can use Brecon as a springboard will depend partly on how far it can keep its left wing under control, how easily it can be disturbed by the resurgence of the Scargill factor was demonstrated last week, and partly on how deep is the resentment towards the Government.

How then might the Government adjust a political climate in which the underlying conditions may no longer be operating in its favour? It needs to avoid giving the impression either of panic or of disdain for the electorate.

Reshuffle must lead to reforms

If it were simply to reverse all its principal policies, it would forfeit public respect, seem a soft touch and restore the inflationary pressures which have been at such pains to stamp out. But it will have to accept that it cannot do some things in the second half of a Parliament which it might have done in the first half.

I do not believe it will be politically acceptable to cut public spending plans sufficiently to make room for tax cuts. It will be hard enough to make the cuts needed to keep the borrowing requirement under control.

The Government will not be able to afford reforms that will be initially unpopular and are unlikely to be self-financing until before the next election. It will, in other words, have to become more political and Mrs Thatcher will need to use her Cabinet reshuffle to make one or two critical changes to show that it intends to be.

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More fear presence of US missile sites

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

There has been an increase in the number of people who believe that the siting of American nuclear missiles in Britain makes it a less safe place to live, according to an exhaustive survey published in *British Social Attitudes*.

In 1983 48 per cent said that US missiles made Britain less safe and the figure rose to 51 per cent last year.

Support for the British nuclear deterrent is strong but slipping: in 1983, 60 per cent said they thought that independent missiles made Britain safer and in 1984 the figure was 56 per cent.

British Social Attitudes is the second annual report from the independent group, Social and Community Planning Research, which is trying to build a five-year dossier on British attitudes and how they are changing.

The same questions are asked of a similarly constructed national sample in consecutive years.

People disapprove more of legal business lunches on expenses than illegal tax fiddles, according to the survey.

In one of the first attempts to gauge public disapproval of right and wrong in public and commercial life, researchers found that corruption in the public sector was consistently judged more harshly than the same behaviour involving a company manager.

Accepting, say, a gift from a contractor was thought by many

'Miserly pensions' warning

Pensions will be cut in half if the Government succeeds in its intended abolition of the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps). Mr Michael Meacher, Labour spokesman on social services, said yesterday.

"Pensioners get a raw deal now, but the next generation of pensioners will face hardship on a scale not seen in this country since before the welfare state," he said in a statement.

Mr Meacher said that if Serps were allowed to continue men and women on the average wage, £178.80 a week, would get a weekly pension of £33.97 after 20 years' contributions, and £14.33 a week for women.

"Under the Government's proposals for private provision, this pension would be cut to £17.20 a week for men with 25 years' contributions, and £14.33 a week for women."

He said that 1 per cent more of someone's earnings, if he was currently in Serps, and 3 per cent more if he was currently contracted out into a company scheme would be required.

"These figures show, for the first time, what Mrs Thatcher expects people to live on under her brave new pension plan, half of what today's pensioners live on."

Times journalists to vote on pay

Members of the National Union of Journalists on *The Times* will vote today on possible strike action in support of a long-running pay claim.

Yesterday management sent to each journalist details of a new offer worth between 8 and 11 per cent, tied to new technology and copyright changes. The journalists are seeking to narrow what they see as a pay gap with comparable Fleet Street papers.

Liberals' Colne Valley choice

Mr Nigel Priestley, aged 33, chairman of the Colne Valley Divisional Liberal Association, has been chosen as the Liberal Party's prospective parliamentary candidate for the Colne Valley constituency.

Mr Richard Wainwright, the sitting Liberal MP, has announced he will not seek reelection. Mr Wainwright has a majority of just over 3,000 at the last general election.

General Election: R. S. Wainwright (Lib), 21,139; J. Holt (C), 17,993; A. Williams (Lab), 13,688; T. L. Keen (Ind) 260. Lib All maj: 3,146.

Correction

Riverman was not an Arc de Triomphe winner as stated in the *Tatler* magazine case report on June 27. Lot 117 of the September 1983 Highflyer sale was not Heli Gorgonzola, but a colt by that horse.

Charles Darwin takes to the water for sound tests

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A record of Charles Darwin's signature is being studied by specialists this week. It is not a study by calligraphers of the penmanship of the famous naturalist, but an examination by Royal Navy experts of the characteristics of the RRS Charles Darwin, the modern floating laboratory built for British scientists to do research at sea.

Charles Darwin left the Pool of London at the weekend for her "sounding" trials by the Navy at Portland before sailing on a biological expedition between Madeira and the Azores, organised by the Institute for Marine Environmental Research at Plymouth.

The ship is designed for research in marine biology, geophysics and geological survey of the seabed and underlying structures of the ocean floor.

This week's trials should

show that the 2,370-tonne vessel is the quietest ship afloat. Costing £7.5 million, it was built for the Government's Natural Environment Research Council by Appleby Shipbuilders in Devon and completed last December.

Replacing the Shackleton, one of the supply ships to the British Antarctic Survey, the new vessel joins a fleet of civil research vessels run by the Council for Civil Scientists, consisting of the *Discovery*, *Challenger* and *Frederick Russell*, which operated for 10,000 scientist sea-days last year.

Charles Darwin has been designed to exploit the latest advances in technology to minimize engine noise and vibration and to stop it interfering with either the laboratory equipment on board or the hydrophones and other

equipment lowered over the side. Since the scientists will make manoeuvres that could appear to be like those of military survey ships, it is important that the identifying signature of Charles Darwin is on record.

The sound insulation and anti-vibration measures include a "floating" floor, which is placed on three inches of insulation material and is not connected to the bulkheads or the deck. When steaming out of the Thames, the engine room noise level was 100 decibels, making conversation impossible, but all that could be heard in the computer and analytical laboratories was the hum of the air-conditioning system.

To obtain similarly quiet electrical operations, some of the electronic cables carrying scientific data are made of optical-fibre circuits that are

impervious to electronic interference.

The automated engine room, referred to as "unmanned machinery space", and the use of computer technology, means a higher proportion of scientists can be carried: 18 to the 21 officers and crew.

Longer periods can be maintained at sea than for previous vessels in the research fleet, with 42 days sailing before refuelling is needed.

The next expedition will see enormous plastic bubbles floated long distances from the ship, connected to the vessel by submersible pipes. These will be fitted with sea water and marine life to determine how they respond to nutrients and other substances inserted through the pipes.

The vessel also has winches containing 10,000 metres of wire rope for lowering apparatus to the sea-bed.

Britain likely to break ranks on acid rain

By Tony Samstag

The Government could face severe embarrassment at a meeting scheduled to begin today in Helsinki, where representatives of 30 countries are expected to agree on a reduction of national sulphur emissions by at least 30 per cent by 1993.

More than 25 Conservative MPs have signed an early day motion calling for Britain to join the so-called "30 per cent club", but a little-noted parliamentary reply on Thursday by Mr William Waldegrave, Under Secretary of State in the Department of the Environment, said categorically that no such action would be taken at Helsinki.

The timing of the announcement, as much as its content, is likely to infuriate many of the delegates

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ITV plans an expanded morning service for housewives and children

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The independent television companies are expected to decide this week to introduce a new morning service bridging the gap between the closure of TV-am and the present opening around midday.

It will involve moving educational programmes to Channel 4 and require the permission of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) but both conditions are likely to be met.

The programming policy of the extended service, from 9.30 onwards, has not been decided yet but is expected to consist of items which will interest housewives and children. Game shows, entertainment programmes and repeats of popular independent television shows

are thought to top programme planners' lists.

Independent television has been considering the introduction of morning television for four years but postponed the idea because of the financial crisis which gripped TV-am until last autumn. Now the commercial breakfast station is in the black and expected to make a profit in the current financial year, although it still has to pay off heavy debts.

At least part of its advertising revenues of around £30 million a year have come from the independent television companies, which have recently been experiencing poor advertising returns, and there is an increasing desire among the

companies for some of the money to be clawed back.

The morning service could attract the same kind of advertising which has made the breakfast station such a success, principally domestic goods and children's products.

Educational programmes could be moved to Channel 4 as early as autumn next year, making way for the new service, although a final decision will be delayed until the companies discover whether the recent downturn in advertising revenues is a continuing trend.

When independent television's plans for an extended morning service first became public, the BBC let it be known privately that it would match any such development, as it did with breakfast television. But the present financial climate at the corporation would seem to rule that out.

The independent companies believe that the new service would cost between £5 million and £6 million a year to run but could attract sufficient advertising to cover the bill. High overtime costs, which make post-midnight transmissions very expensive, are still an obstacle to the introduction of 24-hour television throughout the independent television network.

The Government is expected to readvertise the contract for a new direct broadcast satellite system over Britain, after the failure of the BBC, independent television companies and a number of independent companies to agree terms for their own DBS project.

It is expected that the Home Office will ask the IBA to readvertise the franchise. The new licence would not contain a clause forcing users to transmit by a British satellite consortium, one reason why the last venture failed.



Prince and Princess Michael of Kent during the men's singles final at Wimbledon yesterday that was won by Boris Becker (Photograph: Ian Stewart). Tennis report, page 20

London police test smaller truncheon

By a Staff Reporter

The Metropolitan Police is experimenting with a new small truncheon which could eventually replace the existing 15% in baton.

The potential replacement, which is being tested at New Scotland Yard but has not yet been seen on the beat, will hang from the officer's belt, in much the same fashion as the truncheons worn by police officers in the United States.

The Metropolitan Police declined to show one of the new truncheons for public view yesterday and said that it could be some time before a decision was taken on whether to use them as a replacement for the present weapon.

The small truncheon, described as a "defensive baton", is nine inches in length and weighs 4.2 ounces, less than half the weight of the present baton. At the moment truncheons carry a leather strap and are usually kept in special truncheon pockets sewn into policeman's trousers.

Flat-squat envoy leaves Britain

Mr Ahmed Wajid Rajab, the Syrian envoy who was expelled by the Government after using his diplomatic immunity to ignore a court order to give up a rented London flat, left Britain with his family yesterday.

The flat's owner, Mr John Chaffey, and his family were homeless until they repossessed the property on June 11.

Killer sues

Ian Brady, the Moors child murderer, serving a life sentence, has started legal action against the Home Office, claiming it has failed to give him proper medical and psychiatric care at Giarree, Parkhurst and Wormwood Scrubs prisons.

BBC to retain TV news presenters

By Our Arts Correspondent

The BBC has decided to retain its two presenters of the *Nine O'Clock News* for a revamped version of the programme due to be launched in the autumn.

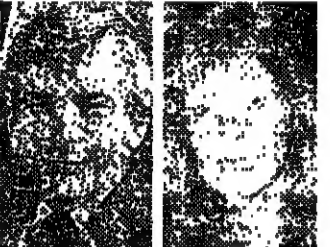
The corporation's new editor of news, Mr Ron Neil, who took over in March, is reported to have considered a number of

sweeping changes for the programme, which has received much of the criticism of the BBC's news output.

At one time it was thought that Mr Neil had been keen to see a senior commenting figure such as David Dimbleby take on the sort of role held by Alastair Burnet on ITN's *News at Ten*.

But Mr Neil has decided that the pair who now present the programme, Julia Somerville and John Humphrys, will be retained for the relaunched programme, which they will both introduce five nights a week.

BBC journalists expect the new format to include a different visual image, shelving the much-criticized "Venetian blinds" design.



John Humphrys and Julia Somerville.

Melchett attacks farmers

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

The war of words between farmers and conservationists, which most observers had thought to be running out of steam, was fanned into life again yesterday by Lord Melchett, the Labour peer and former president of the Ramblers' Association.

Lord Melchett accused the magazine *Farmers Weekly* of having "the cheek to imply" that the Commons environment committee had said that "farmers have got it about right" in their management of the countryside.

What the committee had said, according to Lord Melchett, was that current agricultural policies were "an engine of destruction" in the countryside.

In fact the phrase "engine of destruction" was used by Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State for the Environment, and cited by the committee in criticizing the Ministry of Agriculture for being out of step with other organizations, including farming bodies, in its attitude to the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

But the committee also said in its report, published last January, that it detected evidence of a new mood among farmers, that it was convinced that the voluntary approach was the one and that it wished to avoid antagonizing farmers by forcing them too many new duties and controls.

Lord Melchett, who was speaking at an association rally

at Ampthill, Bedfordshire, described as "ludicrous" a proposal to spend nearly £500,000 on draining Swavesey Fen, in Cambridgeshire, to grow more surplus cereals.

He appealed to the Anglian Water Authority to resist the "rabid agriculturalists' intent on using public money to destroy the wildlife and natural beauty of the area."

The association has also circulated to members of the House of Lords a report criticizing the Transport Bill, which reaches its committee stage in the Lords today.

The report says that further cuts in public transport services will deny large numbers of people access to the countryside.

Hospitals takeover advocated

Private contractors should take over the entire running of National Health Service hospitals, according to the free-market economics organization, the Adam Smith Institute.

The institute says in a report today that the move could save between 10 and 20 per cent on costs and lead to better patient care. It also says that hospitals now threatened with closure should be handed over to private managers, to test the proposal.

The author of the report, Mr Dave Davis, strategic planning director of the sugar refiners Tate and Lyle, said the NHS was suffering from poor and over-bureaucratic management.

Public Hospitals, Private Management, by Mr Dave Davis, The Adam Smith Institute, 30 Westminster Mansions, Little Smith Street, London SW1E 3JG.



Bina Valsay performing a traditional folk dance at an Indian festival of vegetarianism and peace held in Covent Garden (Photograph: Dod Miller).

Vegetarian answer to gallstones

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

A vegetarian diet gives strong protection against the development of gall stones, according to medical researchers.

Non-vegetarians are twice as much at risk of developing the condition, which usually requires surgery and is twice as common in women as men.

Their conclusions, publishing in the *British Medical Journal* today, came after a study of 760 women, aged between 40 and 69, 130 of whom were vegetarians. Examination of the women by ultrasound showed that 25 per cent of those who ate meat had gall stones, or symptoms of the condition, compared with 12 per cent of the vegetarians.

The study, the largest of its kind, carried out by the community medicine, general practice and radiology departments at Oxford University and the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

Previous studies have shown the effects of dietary factors to be small. "We found that vegetarians tend to eat less saturated fat, in addition to not eating meat, and have a higher intake of fibre."

his choice accorded with his fellow judges. He picked the winner, Miss Debbie Clark, a doctor's receptionist. "Her personality just bubbled out of her," he said. Mr Moorby, a former metal worker, has been blind for 10 years.

Healing plant may bring joy to growers

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

A medicinal plant which preliminary tests suggest could be valuable in treating a range of diseases may provide farmers with a lucrative alternative to growing unwanted wheat and barley.

The plant is evening primrose, which has grown wild in Britain for the past 200 years since it was accidentally introduced from North America in the soil ballast of ships engaged in the cotton trade. There is a colony, for example, on the north Mersey sands near Liverpool.

Its medicinal properties were apparently known to the North American Indians, who used to beat wounds and to treat chest ailments. It has long been an ingredient of herbal remedies but it is now being cultivated commercially.

Mr Howard Thomas, managing director of Britannia Health Products, which markets the oil under the trade name Efamol, said the last thing he wanted was people running away with the idea that it was a universal cure-all.

But clinical trials, reported in medical journals, suggest that it is effective in the treatment of pre-menstrual tension, eczema and degenerative liver disease.

The most important element in evening primrose oil is gamma-linolenic acid, said to be vital to the production of essential fatty acids and prostaglandins. Further research may show that the range of diseases responsive to the

treatment include heart disease, obesity, hyperactivity in children, schizophrenia, rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis.

From the growers' point of view, the main disadvantages of evening primrose, which has a bright yellow flower that from a distance could be confused with oilseed rape, are that, having been planted in late spring or early summer, it does not mature until the autumn of the following year; the seed pods ripen over several weeks, causing harvesting difficulties; and yields are unpredictable.

But from a good crop a farmer could expect to get £700 or more an acre, as against a maximum of about £400 for cereals.

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Race and housing: 1

Black families given worst council property

Twenty years after legislation banning discrimination in housing, black people still suffer disadvantages. *Pat Healy, Race Relations Correspondent, in the first of three articles, examines local council moves at ensuring equality.*

Concern that racial discrimination was denying black people their fair share of decent housing in Britain was one of the key factors behind the first Race Relations Act. Now, 20 years on, ministers are being asked to endorse measures aimed at spurring local authorities into doing more to achieve racial equality in council housing, as the law says they must.

Many more black families now live in council housing. Residential qualification initially made them ineligible but between 1977 and 1982 the proportion of West Indians in council property rose from 37 to 46 per cent, while for Asians the proportion rose from 14 to 19 per cent.

But black families are still confined to the worst property and, despite substantial improvements, they have yet to catch up with the quality of council housing enjoyed by most white tenants.

The Policy Studies Institute, in its third national survey of black people in Britain, found last year that white tenants were much more likely to be housed in detached or semi-detached houses and that fewer were living in overcrowded council properties. On their first council tenancy, 37 per cent of whites were given houses of this type, compared with only 8 per cent of West Indians and 10 per cent of Asians.

About two thirds of West Indians and Asians were initially housed in flats, with more than one person to a room for 19 per cent of West Indians and 40 per cent of Asians. Only 6 per cent of whites were living at that density in their first council homes.

In addition, many black families on large estates in inner city areas suffer racial harassment from their white neighbours.

The response of most councils has been to dismiss allegations of racial harassment as disputes between neighbours, and in the worst cases to transfer black tenants to other areas for their own safety.

But a new trend is emerging because of protests that transferring the victims of harassment - ranging from verbal abuse, graffiti and muggings to arson and killings - is giving in to the perpetrators.

One white family, convicted of a series of offences against a local Asian family, has been evicted already and used by right-wing organizations in a more general crusade against black people. Other evictions

are in process and Lewisham housing authority in London has made racial harassment an offence against the conditions of council tenure.

All of these issues were brought to a head by the investigation of the Commission for Racial Equality into the housing policies of the London borough of Hackney. The borough was not suspected of racial discrimination because it had made a point publicly of declaring its commitment to equal opportunities, including in its housing policy.

But the commission's report found that Hackney was nevertheless discriminating against black families through its procedures, albeit unintentionally. The conclusion drawn by the commission was that other councils must be discriminating if a well-intentioned council such as Hackney was doing so.

It sent the Hackney report to all other housing authorities, called a conference with the Institute of Housing to discuss the issue and sought a radical overhaul of housing policies.

The commission told councils that the key to ensuring equal housing opportunities was ethnic monitoring of applicants for council housing, allocations or transfers and for the records to be reviewed regularly. Ethnic groups no longer resist the idea and Sir George Young, minister responsible for racial matters at the Department of the Environment, publicly endorsed it at the commission's conference.

But the first comprehensive survey of housing authorities, published by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities in April, showed that initial optimism was misplaced.

Of the 61 authorities who responded, less than a third kept records of waiting-list applicants and even fewer monitored the allocation of housing to ethnic minorities. The association held out as a shining example the borough of Lewisham.

The association sought endorsement of its policy at the annual housing consultative council between the Department of the Environment and the local authority associations this month. Meanwhile, with the commission and the Institute of Housing, the association has set up a working group to produce a guide for local authorities on ethnic monitoring and the policies and procedures to ensure racial equality on housing estates.

Tomorrow: Lewisham's example



The former US President, Mr Jimmy Carter, and his wife Rosalynn arriving in Geneva yesterday for a meeting on hunger in Africa at the Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations.

Scandalous goings-on in Ottawa

From John Best

A former Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons, Mr Lloyd Francis has given the country a peek at some scandals on Parliament Hill, involving high-ranking government officials, that took place almost six years ago.

Sexual harassment, various forms of corruption and electronic eavesdropping were among the irregularities disclosed by Mr Francis in an interview made public at the weekend.

They related to a period before Mr Francis, a Liberal, became Deputy Speaker and then Speaker. He lost his Ottawa seat in last September's federal elections but was named Ambassador to Portugal by the new Conservative Government.

In the interview, taped in October for the Library of Parliament but leaked to CBC radio, Mr Francis told of drunken parties in the Houses of Parliament where women were expected to undress.

"I had a very attractive young girl about 30 who came to see me," Mr Francis recounted, "and she said: 'Mr Francis, I haven't got a job'."

She said she had been invited to a party, and a "very senior personnel officer" told her to take her clothes off.

"He took me aside and said: 'If you don't take your clothes off, you're not going to have a job,'" she told him.

Mr Francis also said two senior House of Commons officers ran a kickback scheme with employment agencies, whereby secretaries had to give back up to 40 per cent of their salaries.

Election win strengthens Mugabe's confidence

From Jan Raath

Mr Robert Mugabe, the leader of Zimbabwe's vicious Zanu (PF) party, has emerged from last week's elections more resolute than ever to achieve his political goals.

He is satisfied that he has been given a mandate to govern by the people. The opposition vote tallied just over 20 per cent of the total votes cast, and only about five per cent was in voting outside the tribal bloc of Matabeleland, where the Ndebele speaking people solidly rejected Zanu (PF).

In the eastern two thirds of the country, every opposition candidate lost his deposit, except in a few cases in the Midlands with concentrations of Ndebele speaking people and a tiny tribal enclave in the south where the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole's Zanu won its only seat.

Mr Mugabe said at his press conference on Saturday that he regarded the vote in Matabeleland as not so much a genuine expression of the people there, but rather one of fear. The problem is (Mr Joshua) Nkomo, the Zanu and the dissidents (the terms used by the Government, to refer to guerrillas), he said.

Mr Nkomo had "set his dissidents on them so they do his will". Without Zanu, he said, the people of Matabeleland "will fall in line".

Mr Mugabe's aims for the next five years of government related to what he called the "irrevocable law of unity".

"We will be working towards uniting our people under one political umbrella. It is a must for us and that objective has to be fulfilled within the next term."

| | 1985 | 1980 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Total votes cast | 2,896,143 | 2,702,276 |
| Zanu (PF) | 2,199,057 | 1,888,992 |
| Zapu | 517,654 | 638,878 |
| UANC | 55,803 | 218,307 |
| Zanu | 35,737 | 53,343 |
| National Democratic Union | 295 | 15,056 |
| National Front of Zimbabwe | 81 | 18,794 |
| United National Federal Party | - | 5,798 |
| (Did not contest 1985) | - | - |
| United People's Association of Matabeleland | - | 1,181 |
| Zimbabwe Democratic Party | - | 28,181 |
| (Did not contest 1985) | - | - |

The obstacles facing the achievement of this unity, which will be expressed as a one-party state, are the existence of "undesirable elements" (whites who are opposed to the government, and Zanu) and the legal barriers entrenched in the constitution.

The "racist" whites will have to go. They will be distinguished by their actions, by words and how they react to blacks, but Mr Mugabe has still not made it clear how he will conduct the "clean up operation".

There are fears among whites that it will involve systematic witch-hunts with public denunciations by Zanu (PF) vigilantes. Mr Mugabe's reaction to the unexpected majority won by Mr Ian Smith, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, in the elections for the 20 white seats in Parliament, has resulted in a dramatic fall of morale among whites. The anxiety is lessened by the possibility of the statements being victory rhetoric.

The prospect of living under a system where continued residence here is contingent upon more than the observance of the laws of the country, is viewed with little relish.

Mr Mugabe has been most confident he has ever been about how he proposes to repeal the clauses in the constitution which entrench white representation in Parliament. The clauses "must go immediately".

He will not wait until 1987 when only 70 votes in the House of Assembly are required to amend them, as opposed to the 100 per cent affirmation required now.

The situation where "the sovereign will of the people" is subverted by "a piece of paper" will be tolerated no longer, he said.

But he did stop short of saying without ambiguity that he intends to override the constitution's strictures.

He was less clear on the issue of the one-party state, and whether he proposes to ignore the equally rigorous legal strictures there. In 1990, the clause in the Bill of Rights which guarantees freedom of political association can be amended by 70 votes, instead of the 100 needed now.

Much will depend on the composition of parliament after he abolishes white representation. Without the white seats to block him, he has an 80 per cent majority in the House.

Mr Mugabe expects Zanu to stage its "counter-revolutionary activities", and if it does not, the party will face "the hand of law and order exercising itself again, he has not been specific.

However, after the one-party state is implemented, the other parties will become "invalidated", he said.

Failed coup leader to pay final penalty

Conakry (AFP and AP) - Colonel Diani Traore, leader of last week's failed coup in Guinea, has been captured and faces swift execution, President Lansanah Conte said yesterday. He told a public meeting of between 50,000 and 100,000 people that Colonel Traore, Education Minister in the West African state's military Government, was captured when his rebellion failed within hours last Thursday night.

President Conte said that 18 people were killed and 229 wounded during the coup attempt, adding "those who killed or wounded innocent people, I am going to kill them. Let those who would defend (the rebels) in the name of human rights do it quickly, because tomorrow it will be too late."

The President, who was promoted from the rank of colonel to brigadier-general by the ruling military committee for National Recovery after loyal troops defeated the rebels, called for a minute's silence for the victims, who he said included civilians, two of them women.

President Conte acknowledged that his military regime took power 15 months ago with a promise not to shed any more blood after the harsh 27-year dictatorship of the late President Sekou Touré.

"But it is the plotters who have shed blood and the will be shot," he said amid renewed cheers. "The people who died in the coup also had a right to live."

He said that 18 people were killed and 229 were wounded in the pre-dawn shooting around Conakry radio station. Some of the dead were members of the armed forces. The Government had claimed previously that most of the dead were violators of a curfew the rebels tried to impose after broadcasting an announcement of their coup.

The President said he had advance information of the plot and even received a list of the top conspirators before he left Conakry last week to preside at a summit meeting of the Economic Community of West African States in Lomé, capital of Togo. He implied that the Government deliberately allowed the plotters to show their hand while secretly planning swift action to crush the coup when it came.

He said tough security measures would remain in force throughout the capital to prevent renewed looting of shops and other property belonging to Colonel Traore's home, immediately after the coup, was foiled. President Conte is a member of the minority Soussou tribe which predominates in the Conakry area.

Grenada inquiry

St George's (AP) - Grenada's Governor-General, Sir Paul Scoon, has appointed a three-man commission to investigate claims stemming from government actions between the colonial period's close in 1967 and the end of the Maurice Bishop government in 1983.

Threat of treason trial faces Nimeiry

Khartoum (Reuters, AP) - Sudan says exiled former President Nimeiry will face trial in his absence, if Egypt fails to extradite him, and the charge may be treason arising from the smuggling of Ethiopian Falasha Jews through him to Israel. President Mubarak has said Egypt cannot hand over General Nimeiry because it is against the constitution.

Jospin-Fabius dispute settled

Paris (Reuters) - The French Socialist Party leader, M Lionel Jospin, reached a compromise with the Prime Minister, M Laurent Fabius, in a dispute over who should lead the campaign for next year's parliamentary elections. The two men agreed to share the chair at the opening campaign meeting for the March poll. M Jospin had threatened to resign if he did not get the full backing of the party's executive committee.

Hitler diaries verdict today

Hamburg (AP) - The verdict is expected today in the Hitler diaries trial. Prosecutors have asked for a seven-year sentence for Herr Gerd Heidemann, the *Stern* magazine journalist, six years for Herr Konrad Kujawa, the forger, and a one-year suspended sentence for his girl friend, Fraulein Edith Lieblang.

Duty-free port

Jerusalem (Reuters) - Israel's Cabinet approved turning the Red Sea port of Eilat into a free trade zone to bolster tourism and commerce.

Lance in trouble

Mr Bert Lance, who was forced to resign as President Carter's budget director over charges of mismanagement, has quit as chairman of the Georgia Democratic Party after further allegations of unsound banking practices. Mr Lance said he had done nothing improper and was leaving to make way for others.

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Lost at sea

Cape Town (Reuters) - South Africa abandoned an air search for the Arctic Carrier, a Panamanian-registered cargo ship with a crew of 28, after debris and an oil slick were spotted. "We presume the ship has sunk and there are no survivors," a rescue spokesman said.

Iran prosecutor

Hojatolislam Muhammad Mousavi Khomeini, mentor of the militant students who overran the US Embassy in Tehran in 1979, was nominated Iran's new Prosecutor-General.

Basques escape

San Sebastian (Reuters) - Two Basque separatists escaped from the Maritima prison here by hiding in the van of a pop music singer who had entertained there.

Leader stoned

Noumea (AFP) - Melanesians demonstrating for New Caledonia's independence stoned Mr Dick Ukeivei, leader of the territorial Government in the French Pacific archipelago, when he landed at an airfield on his home island of Lifou.

More young nurses left in charge

By Our Social Services Correspondent
Student nurses aged 18 and 19 are being increasingly left alone in charge of wards to cope with seriously ill patients, according to the Royal College of Nursing.

Its Association of Nursing Students is seeking written evidence from student nurses to draw attention to the problem and the dangers it poses.

Miss Sandra Mills, the association's professional officer, said: "It is not uncommon for students to take charge of a 25-bed ward in an acute area for long periods at night."

"We are talking about young and inexperienced learners at 18 or 19 years, who are already trying to cope with the physical and emotional strains of a career in nursing," she said.

Bailey to divorce

Mr David Bailey, aged 47, the photographer, has petitioned to divorce his wife Marie Helvin, a model. The petition appears in the list of undefended suits for hearing in the London Divorce Court.

Press Council rejects bingo story complaint

The Press Council has ruled that *The Sunday Times* was not obliged to publish a story throwing doubts on the fairness of newspaper bingo games.

It yesterday rejected a complaint that the editor, Mr Andrew Neil, improperly used his discretion to prevent publication of disclosures about bingo games promoted by newspapers in common ownership.

The complaint was made by Mr Tom Price, director of the Campaign for Responsible Newspapers, of Daventry, Northamptonshire. Mr Price, part owner and new editor of the *Forest Review* in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, wrote a story telling how Mr Jack Lake had broken the code governing bingo games in the *News of the World*, *The Sun* and the *Daily Star*.

The day before a story on the claims was due to appear in *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun* pub-

Union fears exclusion by banks

Barrie Clement

The high street banks are determined to keep unions out of the fast-expanding financial securities industry, according to the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifin).

About 300 Barclays staff who are being transferred from the groups' merchant bank into a new investment subsidiary, Barclays De Zoete Wedd, have been told that unions will not be recognized.

Lloyds set up a non-union merchant bank recently operating in a similar area.

Mr Noel Howell, an assistant secretary at Bifin, said: "For a bank which boasts of communication and says it encourages union membership, we find Barclays' action astonishing. The banks quite clearly do not want to take the banking union with them as they expand into new financial areas."

A spokesman for Barclays said that although neither Bifin nor the bank's staff union would be recognized for negotiating purposes, all personnel would be allowed to retain their membership.

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Introducing the new Paris taxi. With a natural gas engine, bullet-proof screen behind the driver and telephone for passengers, it will start work in 1986.

Hunt for sex case Marine ends in Canada shootout

San Francisco (Reuters) - The arrest of Charles Ng, a former United States Marine sought in connection with a sex, torture and murder case that may have claimed 25 victims, has ended a search that spread to three continents.

The month-long manhunt, which stretched from the US to Canada, Britain and Mr Ng's native Hong Kong, ended with his arrest on Saturday in a store in Calgary, Alberta, the FBI said in San Francisco.

Police said Mr Ng, aged 24, dishonourably discharged from the Marines last year for stealing weapons from a Hawaii military base, was apprehended when some security guards stopped him as he allegedly tried to shoplift food.

When a scuffle broke out, Mr Ng allegedly pulled out a handgun and shot one store security man in the hand, injuring him slightly, police said.

Mr Ng had been sought on charges of kidnapping and false imprisonment since early June when California authorities uncovered a sex prison at an isolated cabin in Wilseyville, 140 miles east of San Francisco.

The cabin's owner, Mr Leonard Lake, aged 39, committed suicide by swallowing a cyanide capsule when confronted by police.

Leading article, page 13

Army alert for crucial Mexico poll

From John Carlin

The Mexican Army was put on alert yesterday in the northern state of Sonora against possible violence as the country's main opposition party claimed the Government planned a huge fraud to ensure victory in key state elections.

The ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) has never lost an election for President or state governor in its 56-year history. But, according to several projections, the conservative opposition party, National Action (PAN), has majority support among voters in the bone-dry state of Sonora, on the border with Arizona.

"In a clean election we are positive we would beat the hide of the PRI's PAN's campaign organizer in Sonora, Señor Norberto Corella, said PRI officials, aided by the government-controlled press, have been aiming to create the impression that the PAN in Sonora, and nationally, is a petulant minority party.

Elections yesterday for the national Congress and for new governors and town mayors in six other states were expected to proceed without major incident. But passions are so high in the seventh state, Sonora, among the Opposition that the Army and police presence has been as visible as in recent elections in Guatemala and El Salvador.

There were clashes last week between baton-wielding police and PAN supporters protesting against alleged voting irregularities. Several arrests and broken ribs were reported.

With inflation averaging 30 per cent a year while real wages have been dropping annually by

Portugal's Parliament has been engaged in a race against time to approve a number of controversial Bills before it is dissolved by President Eanes on July 12. They include proposals to remove rent controls, lower interest rates and cut taxes on land and medium term bank deposits, the ratification of an agreement with the US for the use of the Portuguese air base at Lajes in the Azores, changes in the electoral law, and the ratification of the agreement for Portugal's EEC entry next January.

The Social Democratic accuse their Socialist coalition partners dragging their feet on the Bills and use as an excuse for withdrawing from the coalition, which led to the resignation of Dr Mario Soares as Prime Minister. After acrimonious late night sessions last week Parliament finally approved a long-contested rent law which will permit rents to rise by between 200 per cent and 400 per cent and subsequently in line with inflation.

Those who favour raising the rents say it will stimulate the paralysed building industry and housing. But opponents of the law point out that there are more than 50,000 new unsold houses standing empty and that the real reason for the building industry's stagnation is the high cost of living and high interest rates - as much as 40 per cent on home loans.

Peace groups alter tack

From Robert Schall

The European peace movement has admitted defeat in its struggle to prevent deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles on European soil and will now concentrate on keeping West Europe out of President Reagan's Star Wars programme.

This emerged from the fourth European Nuclear Disarmament Convention, attended by most of the West European peace movements, which ended in Amsterdam on Saturday.

The four-day convention generated relatively little public interest and the attendance - about 1,000 activists from more than 10 countries - was much lower than for the three previous conventions, reflecting the declining interest now that even The Netherlands is expected to decide in favour of deploying 48 cruise missiles.

Amsterdam was chosen as the venue in the hope this would generate support for the Dutch peace movement's last-ditch attempt to prevent the deployment. But even the Dutch movement is now in a pessimistic mood.

No representatives from the official East European peace councils were invited this year.

From Britain the convention was attended by representatives of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, CND and Scientists Against Nuclear War.

July 12 deadline for MPs

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

As much as 5 per cent, the rise in rents is expected to cause hardship among thousands of families.

One million families are expected to come under the new law, approved with the vote of the Socialists, Social Democrats and Christian Democrats. The Communists, who say it will put 50,000 people on the streets, opposed it.

The tenants associations of Lisbon and northern Portugal argue that his "lame duck" Parliament has no authority to pass the law, which they say will be "a national catastrophe". They have threatened to vote against parties which supported it and will petition President Eanes not to sign the law.

Those who favour raising the rents say it will stimulate the paralysed building industry and housing. But opponents of the law point out that there are more than 50,000 new unsold houses standing empty and that the real reason for the building industry's stagnation is the high cost of living and high interest rates - as much as 40 per cent on home loans.

The base treaty with the US was approved within the allotted time so that Portugal could be receiving the almost \$50 million (£37 million) it entails.

The latest base treaty was opposed by the Communists because it will subject the 1,500 Portuguese workers at the base to American labour laws in overseas, which permit the dismissal of workers - prohibited in the Portuguese constitution.

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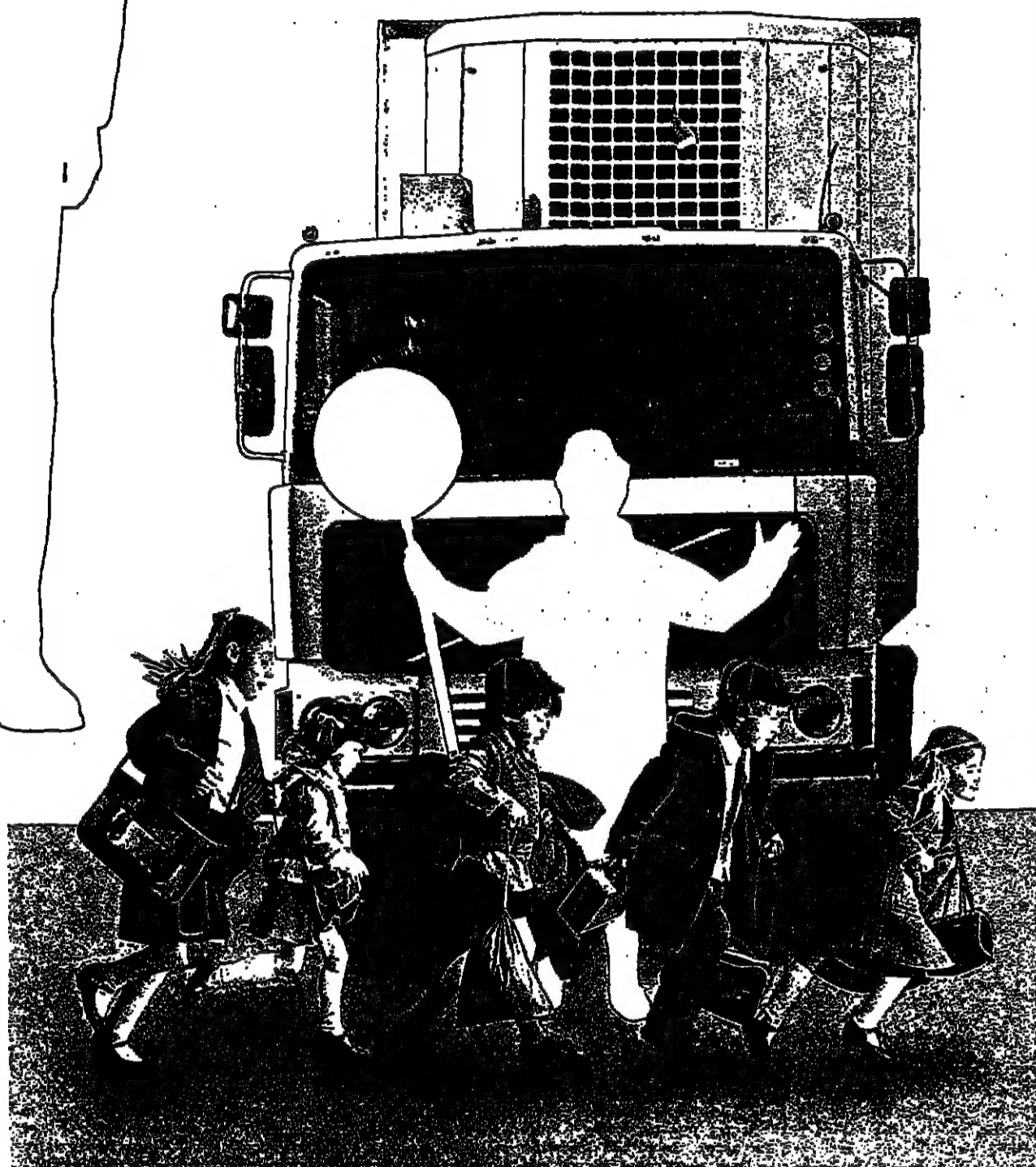
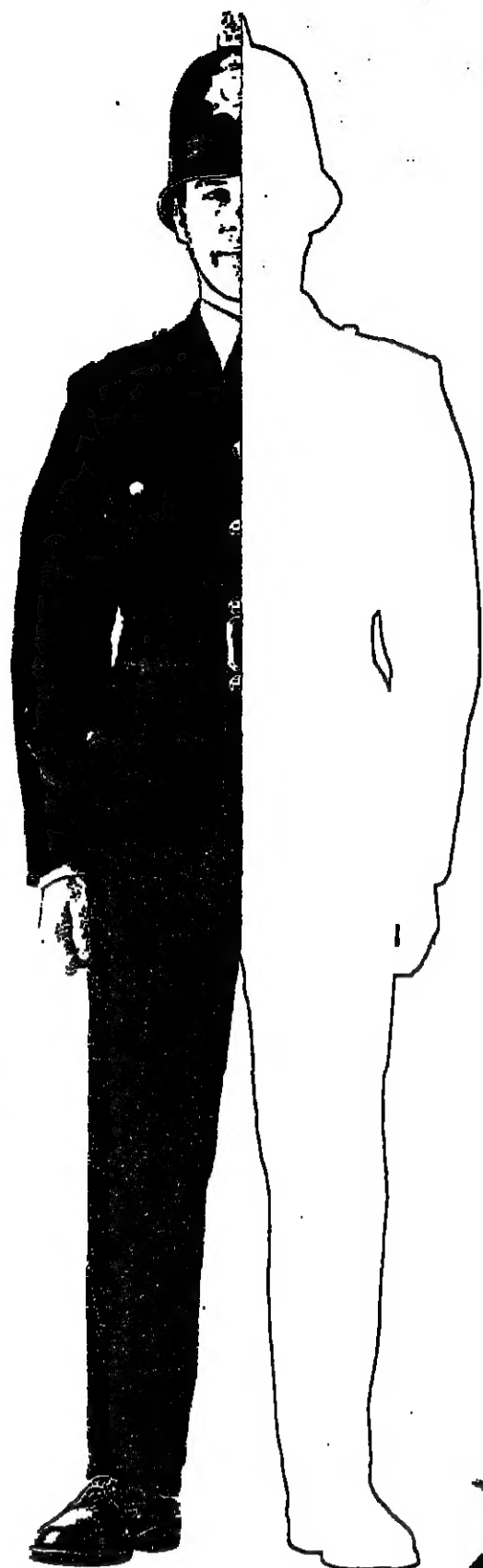
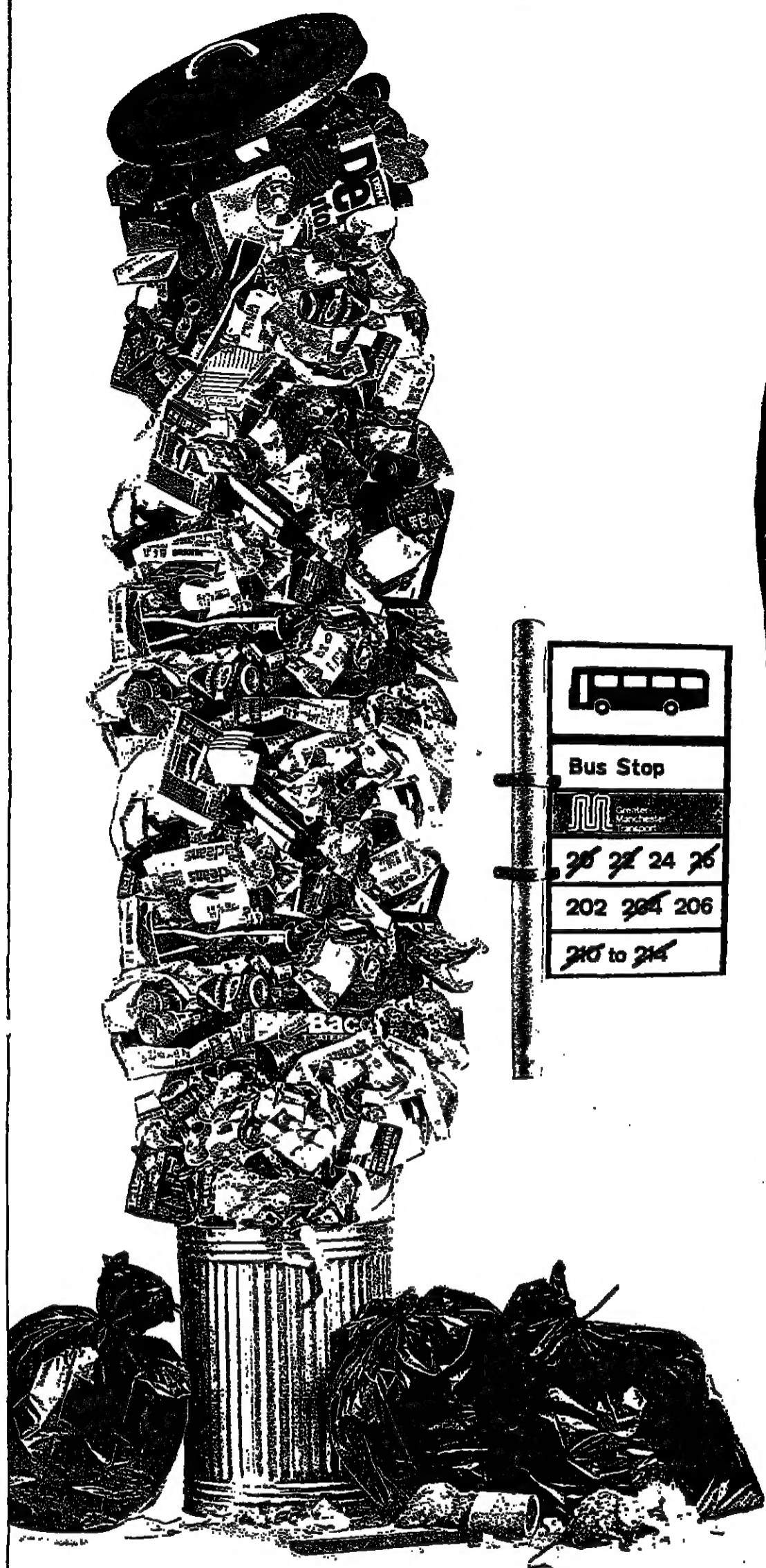
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ADVERTISEMENT

AFTER THE FINAL ABOLITION BATTLE, WHO'LL BE THE REAL LOSERS?



Today the Government's controversial Bill to abolish Greater Manchester Council and the other big metropolitan county authorities, returns to the Commons for one of its last battles.

Intended to "streamline" local government services in the nation's largest conurbations, the Bill will affect the everyday lives and work of more than 18 million people. Its final content is therefore critical.

Yet, as the Government prepares itself for the Bill's final parliamentary hurdle, one thing is clear to almost everyone. Even at this late stage, the Bill's contents are far from satisfactory. To the extent that even after the tabling of nearly 2,000 amendments, peers and MPs cannot agree about which of the numerous successor bodies should control the various functions of the present county councils.

But while such fundamental issues continue to be debated, it seems increasingly likely that this complicated and lengthy piece of legislation will be enacted, leaving little more than six months to implement a radical reorganisation of council services in the most complex, densely-populated areas of Britain.

With so little time to effect all the transitional arrangements needed for services like police, fire and public transport, the present county councils can only apologise in advance for the chaos and disruption to services they fear will ensue from next April.

Such problems will be unavoidable however, since the Bill seeks to replace one cohesive and directly-elected county council in each metropolitan area, with a hotch-potch of indirectly-elected joint boards and committees - and a non-elected super quango appointed directly by the Government.

Against this background, the threatened councils feel they have a duty to inform you of developments during the Bill's passage through Parliament.

In each metropolitan county like Greater Manchester, more than half a dozen separate new bodies will have to be created, most of them answerable directly to Whitehall (not County Hall) for their manpower, spending and policies.

This, the Government describes as "streamlining the cities", but at every stage of the Bill's progress, many MPs and peers - including a significant number of Government supporters - have shown their deep misgivings for what is proposed.

In the House of Lords, major changes have just been made to the Government's plans, with all-party amendments increasing the number of existing county council services to be controlled at a single countywide level under the new structure.

Highways, waste disposal and possibly trading standards are just three functions which, say peers, should be added to the Bill's schedule of services already destined to remain under countywide arrangements - including police, fire and passenger transport.

And the Government itself has shown remarkably little faith in its own proposals. Not content with creating a Whitehall-appointed residuary body for each metropolitan county to look after highly specialised professional and technical services, it has now strengthened the role of its duplicative new "co-ordinating committees" whose brief, put crudely, will be to mop up the organisation of all services which don't run smoothly after abolition.

These little-discussed bodies, says Government abolition spokesman Lord Elton, will remain indefinitely with wide-ranging scope to take on board the provision of any goods and services required by successor bodies (including district councils).

Despite such overt reservations, the Government still claims abolition will save ratepayers money, provide a system which is simpler for the public to understand, make service provision more accountable, and give responsibility for nearly all metropolitan authority functions to the district councils.

Its Bill, on the other hand, makes it abundantly clear that far greater complexity and reduced accountability will be the order of the day after abolition. Points endorsed by widely-respected P.A. Management Consultants whose report concludes: "The new structure will be more complex than the existing one, and less

accountable to local people than at present."

"Countywide co-operation and co-ordination will be much more difficult, and both increased complexity and reduced local accountability will tend to reduce service quality".

So, who will benefit most from abolition? Not the users of affected services, says P.A. And certainly not the hard-pressed ratepayers, who, according to top accountants Coopers and Lybrand Associates, will face an extra £69 million a year burden as a direct consequence of being streamlined.

Coopers' in-depth study adds: "The Government's case for change is overstated and hence, misleading. We conclude there are unlikely to be any savings, and that there could be significant extra costs".

No savings? Poorer services? Reduced accountability? Increased complexity? With so many losers, it's hard to see how abolition will help anyone. Or is it?

Both P.A. and INLOGOV (The Institute of Local Government Studies) focus their abolition conclusions on one possible beneficiary - the Government itself.

"The transfer of functions represents a further step towards centralisation of government and the removal of local discretion", says INLOGOV. While P.A.'s report is even more pointed: "The proposals represent a significant enlargement of central government powers over local affairs".

Perhaps most alarming of all is that this huge and costly reorganisation seems destined to be a completely futile exercise. Both Coopers and P.A. are convinced that more local government reforms will have to follow abolition.

P.A. warns: "We believe that if the Bill's proposals are enacted in their present form, Parliament will be considering further changes in the metropolitan local government system within the next decade."

Is that what all the abolition anguish has been for? Will abolition be the final solution? And if not, what's it all been about?

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Rajiv

Gujarat Chief Minister resigns

The Gujarat Chief Minister, Mr. Kanubhai Mehta, has resigned today after a vote of no confidence in the assembly.

Mr. Mehta was elected to the post in May 1984 after a landslide victory for the Congress party.

He had been in office for less than a year when the vote of no confidence was passed.

The vote was taken after a long and heated debate in the assembly.

Mr. Mehta's resignation was accepted by the Governor of Gujarat.

The Congress party is now in a minority in the assembly.

The opposition parties are now in a coalition.

The coalition is expected to form a government.

The new government is expected to take office soon.

The new government is expected to bring about reforms.

The new government is expected to improve the economy.

The new government is expected to bring about peace.

The new government is expected to bring about development.

The new government is expected to bring about progress.

The new government is expected to bring about success.

The new government is expected to bring about glory.

The new government is expected to bring about fame.

The new government is expected to bring about honor.

The new government is expected to bring about respect.

The new government is expected to bring about admiration.

The new government is expected to bring about awe.

The new government is expected to bring about fear.

The new government is expected to bring about terror.

The new government is expected to bring about horror.

The new government is expected to bring about disaster.

India's nuclear concern

Rajiv treads on Pakistan's toes

From Richard Ford, Delhi

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, will again have angered his neighbours Pakistan by insisting yesterday that they were very close to manufacturing a nuclear weapon.

He said that, despite Pakistan's claim that they were not making such a weapon, India's assessment was that they had a programme for one. If they procured a nuclear weapon, the whole situation in the region would change and his country would have to react in some manner, said the Prime Minister.

Mr Gandhi, did not say what that reaction might be, but there

is no doubt that fear of Pakistan achieving nuclear capability is causing serious concern to the Indian Government. Mr Gandhi's recent remarks on the matter while in the United States were seen by some in Pakistan as "Paki-bashing" and yesterday's comments will not have improved the atmosphere.

But Mr Gandhi, looking relaxed in Delhi at his first important press conference since coming to power, said India was being very positive in its attitude towards the joint Indo-Pakistan commission which met in the capital last week.

He added that his Government favoured a much wider treaty between the two countries than the "no war" pact envisaged by Pakistan.

Mr Gandhi called for international governmental action to combat terrorism, saying that, if it occurred, the terrorists would not exist. The problem could be tackled effectively only with worldwide agreement, but he criticized some countries who talked of tackling the problem but practically sometimes gave them assistance.

● 600 FREED: Authorities announced yesterday that another 600 prisoners had been released in Punjab, bringing to 1,200 the number set free in the Government's latest bid to reduce tensions in the Sikh stronghold (AP reports from Delhi).



Mr Gandhi: Tough message for terrorists

25 deaths claimed in Quetta Shia clash

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

Pakistan's simmering sectarian unrest flared up in Quetta, capital of Baluchistan province, on Saturday with 25 people killed, including 13 policemen, in clashes between Shia Muslim demonstrators and police, according to reliable sources in the city.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the figure. Earlier, officials said only five had been killed, including two policemen.

Eyewitnesses said the clashes began in the morning in the narrow bazaar lanes close to the Imambara Shia shrine, and went on late into the evening. A police station was reportedly attacked.

The trouble began when Shias defied a government ban on public demonstrations to press demands for the enforcement of Shia *Fiqh* (religious practice and rules) for its followers in all matters for which the Government introduced Islamic reforms in recent years. The trouble between the Shia minority Muslims on the one hand and the Government and most of the majority Sunni Muslim bodies on the other arises from controversy over the adoption of Sunni *Fiqh* in many of the Islamic reforms with no exception.

There are reported to be a large number of Shia Afghans sheltered in Baluchistan besides Iranian fugitives.

South African police accused of township killings

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Policemen wearing balaclava helmets raided the black township of Duduza east of Johannesburg last Friday and killed between two and six people, local residents claimed at the weekend.

A police spokesman in Pretoria, Lieutenant J C Barnard, confirmed that a police unit had visited the township "to root out criminal elements". He said this was a routine function of the police.

He refused, however, to comment on any of the specific claims made by Duduza residents, which were reported in some detail in *City Press*, a weekly newspaper with a predominantly black readership. He said a press statement would be issued today.

Residents named two of those killed by the police as Mr Joseph Mnyane, aged 24, who was allegedly shot while standing outside his home, and Mr

Canada imposes sanctions

Ottawa: Canada has imposed economic sanctions on South Africa as part of an international squeeze aimed at getting Pretoria to abandon apartheid (John Best writes). The measures announced at the weekend include an end to exporting centres for Canadian firms seeking to develop markets in South Africa.

Double taxation agreements with South Africa, which permit companies to avoid

paying taxes to both Governments, will be ended.

Canadian firms will be prohibited from selling sensitive equipment, such as computers, to the South African police and armed forces. South African arms imports to Canada will be embargoed; and compliance with codes of conduct governing employment of blacks by Canadian firms operating in South Africa will be more closely monitored.

Matanzima Mnyane, aged 16, who was reportedly gunned down on a patch of open land.

At least four other unnamed youths were killed.

About 50 youths were said to have been arrested and held in a hall which was turned into a makeshift police station and surrounded by barbed wire.

The *City Press* also carried a photograph of what appeared to

be three heavily armed men in balaclava helmets patrolling one of Duduza's dirt roads.

The detail about the balaclavas is of some importance as unidentified men wearing such headgear were said to have been responsible for an attack, last month of the home of the Rt Rev Simon Nkomo, the black Anglican Bishop Suffragan of Johannesburg.

'Dallas' director found murdered

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

The murder of Barry Crane, an internationally known bridge player and director of hit television shows *Dallas* and *Hill Street Blues*, has Los Angeles police baffled.

His nude body, wrapped in blood-soaked sheets from his own bed, was discovered by his housekeeper in the garage of his house on the edge of Hollywood in the kind of mystery that

would have made a perfect scenario for one of his own TV shows.

Detectives combing the murder scene yesterday admitted there were no suspects, no clues and no motive but his white Cadillac was missing. The house had not been burgled. A friend who saw Crane alive on Thursday night said he had "no enemies of the murdering kind" and was not in fear of his life, and was in high spirits.

Mr Crane had accumulated nearly 35,000 Master points in tournaments conducted by the American Contract Bridge League - more than 11,000 ahead of his nearest rival. He won the world mixed pairs Championship in 1978.

His body was found in the block of flats where Vicky Morgan, former mistress of the late Millionaire Alfred Bloomingdale was murdered in July, 1983.

European notebook

Luxembourg navy at action stations



The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg pushes out the boat this week. She is called the Marie-Astrid. There are no financial reasons for using Luxembourg in a cash-starved Community. The Parliament's own staff trade union calculates the cost of moving all the necessary staff and equipment to Strasbourg from the secretariat offices in the Grand Duchy at about £250,000 a session. Each year, the total cost is more than that spent on administering EEC food aid.

But Strasbourg, a city which has been "swapped" between France and Germany so often, symbolizes much about the EEC to the many MEPs these days who are talking of European union. Luxembourg's more sterile atmosphere is not so emotive and most members have all but forgotten what it is like to meet there.

Most British members would actually prefer to hold everything in Brussels on grounds of cheapness and convenience. That way, they argue, they can haul commissioners and officials before them to answer questions whenever they like, while there would be no need to go on carting the European Parliament's impressive paper mountain around Europe. The restaurants are pretty good too.

It is an argument which is meant to be settled by a summit, but a far more delicate one than any of the relative trivialities about subjects like the British budget or institutional reform.

Poor Luxembourg is also in the first throes of trying to sweep up the mess left after the Milan summit. It had come down with a suggested work programme which bears a singular resemblance to an idea put forward, but never debated, by Britain at the summit itself.

This includes setting up the inter-governmental conference demanded by seven countries, but at the same time going ahead with rules for increasing majority voting while protecting the right of veto.

Luxembourg gave its name to the Community's most famous compromise - something which in best EEC fashion it does not believe in itself. If it succeeds with its present plan, it will have a compromise it could itself be proud of.

Given that the chamber is rarely more than a quarter full, some might argue it is a waste of time and money to enlarge it anyway.

So Luxembourg, which has bitterly resented the way members have deserted it, knows for certain it has only this one month in which to persuade members to come back - at least sometimes. It has fought the case through the European Court and failed. It took the precautions some time ago of enlarging its chamber to take in the Spaniards and Portuguese.

There are new carpets and decor.

It plans to use up some of Europe's food mountains and wine lakes in the hope that the way to an MEP's heart is through his stomach.

There are, in fact, good financial reasons for using Luxembourg in a cash-starved Community. The Parliament's own staff trade union calculates the cost of moving all the necessary staff and equipment to Strasbourg from the secretariat offices in the Grand Duchy at about £250,000 a session. Each year, the total cost is more than that spent on administering EEC food aid.

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Ian Murray

British bridge women win through at last

From A Bridge Correspondent, Salsomaggiore

In a dramatic climax to the women's section of the European bridge championships here, the British team overwhelmed Sweden to take second place and join France at the world championships in Brazil in October.

With the last match to play Britain were two points behind Sweden, lying second. They had to win 17-13 but at the halfway stage were four points behind. To triumph Britain now had to gain 39 points in the final 16 boards.

The four defending world champions, Sandra Lanty and Sally Horton, and Nicola Smith and Pat Davies, were in their very best form, in fact gaining 44 points in the 16 deals.

Final placings: 1, France (281); 2, Britain (263); 3, Italy (261); 4, Netherlands (259); 5, Sweden (254); 6, Poland (237).

The Open series was no less exciting. Israel was already assured of first or second place. Austria and France, tying in second place, met in the final round. At half time, France led by 10 points. In the second half Austria outscored them by 67 points to 34 to win the match, 19 to 11.

Meanwhile, Israel were defeated 22-8 by Sweden to lose their lead. So Austria and Israel qualify for the world championship. Leading scores were: Austria 376, Israel 354, France 358, Denmark 358, Sweden 357, Britain 355, Netherlands 352, Poland 354.

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THE ARTS: 2

Opera

Britten proved a master of farce

Albert Herring
Glyndebourne

I am always prepared to change my mind again, but just now, after a splendidly lively and thorough reproduction at Glyndebourne, I am inclined to place *Albert Herring* right up there among Britten's finest operas. It is easy to say that the story and characters are trivial but this performance, in which the words are excellently audible, shows that there are also positive qualities in the libretto, notably in its rhyming couplets of varying length that read like doggerel but musically work to wobble the seriousness of the enterprise.

And Britten so thrives on being wobbled. Where his other librettos encouraged him to believe he was addressing great themes, this one must have seemed merely an excuse for good fun, allowing him perhaps to compose with less circumspection: certainly there is no parallel in the rest of his output for the criticism of the duet for Syd and Nancy in the first act, or for the extraordinary upward chordal glissando associated later with their kissing.

More generally, of course, *Albert Herring* gave Britten the opportunity to display his mastery of operatic farce, a genre in which his only rivals were Rossini and Donizetti or, in a different tradition, Shostakovich. A mastery of farce implies a mastery of parody and this alone of Britten's operatic scores is barbed with the weapons that he had employed in several of his works from the 1930s: imitations of banal and debased styles, absurdly inappropriate invocations of the great (as when Albert's liberating drink is musically likened to that of Tristan and Isolde) or exaggerated emotion.

A key moment in this respect is Nancy's lament near the start of the last act. The style is almost that of a mournful Sinfonietta of the period, and a clarinet wailing up over the voice adds to the overkill, yet one is persuaded also that Nancy really does feel remorse. The irony does not negate the expression, but on the contrary makes it legitimate.

This is relevant to the charge commonly made that *Albert Herring* patronizes its working-



Struggling towards a manliness of expression: John Graham-Hall's Albert with Patricia Johnson's dragoness Lady Billows

class characters. Of course it does, but it also patronizes the lady of the manor and the vicar: it is the manner of farce to patronize, and it is the achievement of farce on Britten's level that it should both patronize the characters and also make them live. The nearest parallel is possibly with Wilde and in both cases the double focus seems to be attained because the authorial voice is so strong.

Where Wilde keeps pushing himself into his character's lines, Britten keeps pulling his people into patterns suitable for music. No matter that the opera begins like an Edwardian domestic comedy: its cast can still be shunted quite suddenly into fugate quartets. No matter that a whole range of diverse personalities has been established: they can nevertheless, at the end, join in a funeral chorus that obliges several of them, Syd especially, to behave musically and even verbally quite out of

character. They would all be happier, one feels, in a rather different, milder and more innocent kind of opera: Britten keeps them on their toes.

Very probably one senses the tension between characters and composer all the more keenly because Peter Hall's production is so vividly realized. The cast has been coached in the Suffolk accent by Peter Tuddenham and to great effect. They sound as convincingly everyday as they look in the costumes and sets designed by John Gunter, and the flat vowels and nasal sounds stand nicely in the way of normal operatic singing. When they have to be lyrical, it goes against the grain.

Nowhere is this effect more pointed than in John Graham-Hall's Albert. Tall, slender and blond, he acts the sheltered, slightly gormless young man without being coy or pathetic, and in his more openly melodious music he struggles

towards a manliness of expression that Mum evidently has not fitted him for. Jean Rigby and Alan Opie are magnificent as Syd and Nancy, having the fleshly recklessness Albert seeks, and both singing delightfully.

There are also fine portraits from Patricia Johnson as the dragoness Lady Billows, Felicity Palmer going most effectively way outside her normal range of character as the housekeeper, Elizabeth Gale fluttering as Miss Wordworth, Patricia Kern hinting at self-parody of Ellen and Lucretia in Mrs Herring and Derek Hammond-Stroud, Alexander Oliver and Richard van Allan living and breathing the parts of village worthies. When the score too is so characteristically played under Bernard Haitink one's pleasure is complete.

Paul Griffiths

Dance

Coppelia
Coliseum

Even with less than ideal casting at its premiere, it was obvious that Festival Ballet's new *Coppelia* is the best production of that attractive ballet we have had lately in London. Changes in the leading dancers during the week have brightened the effect, making its virtues more rewarding.

Because of a colleague's injury, Katherine Healy danced on Friday as well as her scheduled performance on Wednesday, with different partners. At 16, Healy is as assured a dancer as you will see in any British company today. Her youthful appearance must restrict her roles just yet, but she acts with subtlety and charm (her eyes are notably expressive, twinkling or brimming as need be), and is nicely responsive to the interpretations of the other dancers around her.

The long suite of dances for Swanilda and her friends, to Delibes's *Theme slave varié*, finds Healy the bright focal point of a well prepared ensemble, in which Mary

McKendry also earns special credit. In her doll disguise for Act II, Healy wields a wicked fan in the Spanish dance and gives the Scottish solo an effectively strong down-thrusting impetus. The bravura passages of the final scene appear to hold no problems for her and consequently they carry a vivid sense of exhilaration.

On Wednesday, Raffaele Paganini played Franz and Alexander Grant was Coppelia; on Friday Kevin Pugh and Philippe Arrona took over those roles. Paganini makes the most of his devastating good looks to present a village hero of exuberant confidence, sweeping Swanilda off her feet without a moment of self-doubt. Pugh, darkly handsome but more reserved in manner, makes Franz an unexpectedly sensitive suitor in the last act.

Both men dance to match their acting: Paganini with a sweeping, punchy vigour, Pugh with purer classical style, but each in his own way dances very well indeed, with powerful, well-paced vigour and a display of virtuosity that has sensibly been tailored to bring out each man's personal strengths, an amazingly daring variant on the

ritual, for instance, from Paganini, and exceptionally fast, high *lancers en l'air* from Pugh.

The playing of Dr Coppélius was just as varied. Grant seems to have concentrated on the role's humour, and his quick, rickety gait suggests that he could build the character into something as funny as we used to see from Robert Helpmann years ago. Arrona puts his emphasis on the poetry of the part, and seems set to make the man's attempt to give his doll a soul an act of true magic.

Mary McKendry and Mireille Bourgeois have both given very pleasing accounts of the Prayer solo, but on the whole what has impressed most about the supporting cast has been its animation and general improved level rather than the

playing of this or that small part. One does, however, notice faces in the crowd who are obviously only waiting for their turn to take the spotlight.

The eccentric engine which Ronald Hynd's production introduces into Act II has been quietened, for this relief, much thanks, but I shall not be happy until they reform it altogether.

One could wish for sweeter playing from Festival Ballet's orchestra, and perhaps in time they will give it. However, both Graham Bond, their musical director, and a prize-winning newcomer to the conducting staff, Andrew Mogreli, found a buoyant rhythm to sustain the dancing. *Coppelia* has two more performances at the Festival Hall at the end of the month.

John Percival

Theatre in the United States

'Steppenwolfen' take New York by storm

The Judy Garland-Mickey Rooney fable about obscure but talented kids who win stardom by putting on shows in a barn has taken on sophisticated reality via the New York invasion of the Steppenwolf Theatre Company. Less than three years after his Off-Broadway debut in the Steppenwolf import of *True West*, John Malkovich has garnered international fame. Other Steppenwolfen have also added to the group's lustrous image that in record time, nine years after its founding, the Chicago-based company won the 1985 regional theatre Tony for its body of work.

Malkovich was recently given the Drama Desk's Outstanding Director Award for his Off-Broadway revival of Lanford Wilson's *Balm in Gilead* — a production originated in Chicago and restaged here with a dynamic blend of Steppenwolf and Circle Repertory actors. After directing *Balm* and making the film of *Eleni*, he returned to Steppenwolf to stage a new play this spring. In the cast was his wife, Glenn Headly, who won a Theatre World Award in the Manhattan Theatre Club's revival of *The Philanthropist* last season.

Now the couple have come to Broadway, with Miss Headly playing Raina in Mr Malkovich's boisterous staging of *Arms and the Man* (Circle in the Square Theatre). Banked by toy mountains dotted with little villages, the production spoofs a spoof. Miss Headly is a Betty Boop-voiced heroine, Raul Julia such a numskull of a Sergius that he lays his head on the table to bear the strain of signing documents, and Kevin Kline an earnest, dry Bluntschli. Caitlin Clarke's canny Louka completes a quartet who act in four different styles, mischievously.

At the Public Theater, enjoying its most successful season, is another of the Steppenwolfen, Joan Allen, as Bette in Christopher Durang's new comedy, *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*. Mr Durang, in familiar territory with another tale of family life



Mischief mix of styles: Raul Julia (left), Glenn Headly and Kevin Kline in *Arms and the Man*

blighted by Catholic precepts and unfulfilled expectations, is inching still closer to containing his antic spirits in trim theatrical form. His is the clearest voice among our younger comedy writers, proportioning life's tragedies and hilarities according to his own measure. The most controversial Durang touch in *Bette and Boo* is the dumping of four stillborn babies

on the floor: the most inventive is a wonderful act on life's disappointments which begins "Holidays were invented in the year 1203 by Sir Eitelbert Holiday, a sadistic Englishman".

In a company (including the author, playing the narrator/son) which won an Obie for outstanding ensemble work, Joan Allen shines, conveying a

mindless woman by seldom appearing to pause as she drowls and gushes through life. The contrast is enormous between Bette and the still centre and quiet radiance of her heroine in last season's... and a *Nightingale Song*, for which she took every award she was eligible to win. Between making a television mini-series and a film and opening the Public, Miss Allen returned to Chicago to play Masha in the Steppenwolf production of *Three Sisters*.

...and a *Nightingale Song*, using a cast of Steppenwolf and New York actors, was exquisitely staged by one of Steppenwolf's co-founders and artistic directors, Terry Kinney. He also proved astonishing in his acting debut here, playing a booby doctor in *Balm in Gilead*. That was but a taste of his performance in *Orphans* (Westside Arts Center), a Steppenwolf import straight from Chicago.

In Lyle Kessler's drama, reminiscent of *The Caretaker* and *True West*, the lives of two brothers are changed when their intended kidnaper turns out to be a mysterious mixture of Houlihan, gangster and patriarch. Directed by Gary Sines (who staged and costarred with John Malkovich in *True West* and also won an Obie for it), the alternative comedy of menace and play of pathos is in the bravura style of American acting which Steppenwolfen have mastered.

Brooding, explosive — going right to the edge of the cliff of disbelief and hanging over by their nails but never slipping off.

Mr Kinney as the smalltime hood brother, Kevin Anderson as his smothered sibling and John Mahoney as their intruder create the most demonic, cathartic theatre in town. The awards are rolling in for this one, too, and the wonder is that, in an atmosphere where many nominations and awards are bitterly contested, I have yet to hear or read anyone claiming that the Steppenwolfen do not deserve theirs.

Holly Hill

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La Fille mal gardée
Big Top, Battersea

It says a great deal for the magic of Ashton's choreography that an audience consisting in the main of fractious tots, confined in a stuffy tent on the warmest Saturday afternoon of the summer, remained for the most part enthralled by the pastoral romance of *Lise and Colas*.

To be scrupulously fair, the longest applause went to Michael Coleman as Widow Simone for his embellished clog dance and an elaborate series of curtain calls, but Fiona Chadwick and Jay Jolley, making their debuts as the young lovers, were cheered to the echo, and deservedly so.

Chadwick is probably the most capable and versatile of the Royal Ballet's young hopefuls, but Lise could not prove the role which suits her best. Practical and romantic, she

really knows the rate a harvester should be paid and how to churn butter. Osbert Lancaster's pretty dresses suit her to perfection and she has adopted a flattering new hair-do. The choreography holds no terrors for her, though she could show more brilliance in her big solo.

Jolley's all-American good looks transfer happily from palace to farmyard and it was a pleasure to see him back on form and dancing strongly. He turned smoothly, but the amended ending of his second solo suits neither dancer nor music.

He and Chadwick go well together, a more grown up partnership, reminiscent of Nerina and Blair, the ballet's creators. They avoid the trap of acting too much, letting Ashton provide the humour and romance, but I feel Jolley could afford to relax and have a little more fun with his role.

Simon Rice was the new Alain, a role he played at his graduation performance, as innocent and appealing as a new-hatched chick, and just as suited to matrimony. I preferred his gentle fun to the knockabout style adopted by some performers, and must also congratulate Robert Jude for the restrained benevolence of his Notary.

The orchestra of the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, conducted by Ashley Lawrence, gave a lively account of the score, despite the frightful acoustic of the tent, and the company as a whole danced with more precision and verve than we have seen for a long time.

Judith Cruickshank

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SPECTRUM

Anthony Clare begins a two-part series on a fundamental question for psychology

Is analysis a Freudian slip?

It is now a hundred years since Freud began his researches into the nature and treatment of mental disorder. Now, increasingly, doubts are expressed about the effectiveness of his methods

Recently, a British psychoanalyst, Dr John Slater, lamented in the pages of *The Lancet* that psychoanalysis is undergoing a state of violent attacks. He cited growing doubts over whether psychoanalysis is an effective treatment of mental illness, and mentioned rivalry within the field of psychiatry heightened by shortage of funds and the malign envy of critics. "Many of whom," he wrote dismissively, "have either been in analysis or toyed with it before focusing their hatred upon it."

It is a measure of how times have changed that this last explanation cuts least ice. There was a time when all the defenders of psychoanalysis had to do was subtly to suggest that the critic suffered from unresolved psychological complexes and clearly was in need of the treatment he disparaged. Now such a response itself backfires. It merely adds fuel to the original question: where is the evidence that psychoanalysis has made anyone any less neurotic, pathological or immature than the rest of us?

Where indeed? A century after Freud's initial speculations there remains the most astonishing gap in the otherwise copious psychoanalytical literature regarding its efficacy. Yet many informed and intelligent people still believe that psychoanalysis, the most complex and intensive of psychiatric therapies, must therefore be the best and that the only reason for its comparative neglect within British psychiatry is that it is time-consuming and expensive.

It is an understandable assumption that expensive treatments are for severe conditions. Mild angina is treated with a tablet under the tongue, severe forms require bypass surgery. Minor psychological stresses benefit from exploration, reassurance and advice. So surely the severe, crippling psychiatric disorders require psychoanalysis?

In fact, psychoanalysis has never been the treatment chosen for severe psychiatric disorders and this has been true even of the United States where, for 20 years before and after World War II, it flourished. From the outset, psychoanalysis has been a treatment restricted to a highly

young, and predominantly of Jewish or Protestant backgrounds.

In addition, such patients tend to be well educated, only a small minority not having at least some training beyond high school level. One of the most extensive studies ever conducted revealed that more than half the patients in psychoanalysis in the US were either themselves practising psychiatrists or psychologists or were their wives, husbands or children.

Even more important is the fact that patients selected for psychoanalysis are very much

'Its truth rests on its clinical claims'

healthier and more socially capable than patients treated otherwise. The overwhelming majority of reported cases involve patients suffering relatively minor degrees of psychiatric illness or people who are not patients at all. This high degree of selectivity has largely been ignored by psychoanalysts and their supporters.

There are those such as the philosopher Stephen Toulmin, who is sympathetic to analysis, and Sir Karl Popper, who decidedly is not, who both argue that psychoanalysis is not a true science. Hence questions as to whether it works are either inappropriate or impossible to answer. But the more persistent view is that, from Freud onwards, the truth of psychoanalysis has firmly rested on its clinical claims.

Since psychoanalysis does claim to function as a treatment, its clinical successes and



failures do seem highly relevant to the task of evaluating the truth of its theories. If it has no clinical successes and if it is not confirmed by experimental findings, then it has no more scientific standing than any other coherent, consistent mythology. And what is the evidence? Not very impressive. Only six cases treated by Freud were reported in any detail and

not one contains unequivocal evidence of recovery attributable to the analysis.

One American psychoanalyst, Judd Marmor, on reviewing the available evidence was forced to conclude that in retrospect psychoanalysis may have been oversold as a treatment. Its superiority over all other psychotherapeutic approaches, he added, "is

presently more an article of faith than a scientific demonstration."

At the present time, psychoanalysis is irrelevant to the treatment of the severe forms of mental disorder - the psychoses of schizophrenia and manic-depressive disorder - which are treated with drugs, social forms of rehabilitation and counselling approaches

whose similarity to Freudian psychoanalysis is slight. Such treatments, it is sadly true, are far from being as effective but virtually every leading research worker looks to developments in neurochemistry, neuropsychology, genetics and psychology for breakthroughs. No one seriously considers psychoanalysis.

'Some patients are unsuitable'

In the case of serious neurotic illness and obsessions, anxiety states and hysterical disorders which initially provided some of Freud's early patients, it is the developments in behavioural therapy, social skills training and drug therapy which have proved as effective as psychoanalysis and at a fraction of the time and cost. In the case of the milder, though highly prevalent, psychological disturbances (including the anxieties, depressions and interpersonal difficulties of everyday life) there is now persuasive evidence that those patients who respond well to treatment will recover anyway with methods much more straightforward and brief than classical analysis.

And what of those patients who do not respond so well to simple treatments? What about analysis for them? Unfortunately, these are the very people whom psychoanalysis rejects as being unsuitable. They are the poorly motivated patients with multiple social difficulties, miserable marriages, fragmented families, occupational instability and financial straits

'Other therapies are jostling for funds'

who lack the persistence and application to engage in therapy five days a week for months, and even years, at a stretch.

More than 30 years ago, Hans Eysenck launched a bitter attack on analysis which contained pointed questions about its effectiveness and its selectivity. The whole episode was dismissed as an exercise in territorial competitiveness between Eysenck's behaviourism and classical analysis, and was not to be taken seriously as an academic issue.

This time round it is not going to be so easy. Analysis is no less expensive. If anything it is even more so. Other therapies have mushroomed and a wide array of psychotherapies, counselling and supportive approaches jostle for recognition and funds. More ominously, perhaps, people are asking not merely whether psychoanalysis works but whether how it works has less to do with Freud's theories and more to do with the fact that the therapist believes, the patient pays, the expectations of response are heightened and the whole therapeutic process more akin to indoctrination than treatment.

Anthony Clare is Professor and Head of the Department of Psychological Medicine, St Bartholomew's Hospital, London.

TOMORROW

Myth or medicine?
The final part of the series

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: CRYPTOZOOLOGY

Yesterday monsters of myth, fantasy and nightmare were dragged into the scientific impartiality of a Brighton conference. Lurking in the undergrowth of the current Third International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology was a session on "Cryptozoology: The Search for Unknown or Supposedly Extinct Animals".

Cryptozoology is the study of creatures that have strayed from their expected place, time or form. The "Surrey Puma" would be one example. The marsupial "wolf" of Tasmania another. The dinosaur said to have been sighted in the Congo is another concern of the International Society of Cryptozoology.

Bigfoot forward

Gigantopithecus blacki is the title awarded by Dr Grover Krantz of Washington State University to "an erect bipedal primate standing 2.5m tall, hair covered, broad shouldered and somewhat gorilla-like in facial appearance". To its friends in the USA, it is known as "Bigfoot" or "Sasquatch".

It friends include a Committee Against Shooting Sasquatches: its enemies are a Vietnam veteran who declares that the only way to settle the

controversy over its existence is to exhibit a (shot) specimen. Its defenders declare that if the Sasquatch turns out to be hominid, the killing would count as homicide, for which the penalties vary, depending on whether it is with malice.

Its enemies are the Yeti in the Himalayas and the Wildman of China, where three lower jaws and 1000 teeth have been unearthed. In the United States, it is a matter of alleged photographs, hairs and footprints. Some witnesses swear they have seen Bigfoot playing handball.

Poisonous theories

The unfortunate case of the Giant Serpent of South America shows that scientists, like the fanatic fringe and fransers, can set off on entirely the wrong track. David Heppell of the Royal Scottish Museum recalls that the existence of this monster was deduced from what was thought to be its poison fang.

"The whole history of this 100-foot snake was worked out, what it fed on. Casts of the fang were distributed round the world: there was one here in Edinburgh. The fang was later identified as part of a sea-shell.

Similarly, in 1962 a new species of shell was discovered in caves in Crete: it was odd, because some specimens were right-handed, some left. Twenty

years later, an Italian scientist made a similar find. He checked carefully and found that both types of 'shell' were the inner ears of bats."

Out of the inky depths

The giant octopus is being dragged from mythology and boys' stories into mainstream science. It is thought to be the origin of the Kraken of Scandinavian lore.

Bishop Pontoppidan, author of an early scientific treatise on Norway, was rash enough to include a reference to a vast cephalopod, and paid the penalty of scorn heaped on his venerable head.

At the conference, Dr Roy Mackal of Chicago University reported on chemical analysis of a preserved sample from a 19th century specimen described as "Octopus giganteus". The tissue originates, he states, from an exceptionally large octopus not referable to any known species.

David Heppell, Chairman of the cryptozoological section of the conference, has manhandled into the boot of an estate car a recently dead 21-foot long giant squid, washed up on the North Berwick coast, to transport it into his laboratory for dissec-

tion. The longest ever measured was 58 feet. There is good evidence of a specimen almost twice that length.

Feline fossil

Only two species of North American cats are known to have survived from Pleistocene times: the jaguar and the puma. But Dr Helmut Henninger of Johannes Gutenberg University, Germany, argues for the existence of a third, a "fossil cheetah", known to the Aztecs, and to Mexicans today.

"It has been described as a slender animal with big chest, skinny hindquarters and wolf-like legs, but otherwise puma-like in appearance." Local name is *Oryza*, scientists term it *Acanonyx* (Miracinonyx) trumani.

Pygmy battles

One of cryptozoology's successes is the skopi, a "Miocene giraffe" which was not accepted into polite scientific society until 1981. Now it has graduated to become the logo of the International Society of Cryptozoology.

The "pygmy hippopotamus" was not collected until 1913 and the coelacanth fish, a "living fossil", swam into scientific acceptability only in 1938, even though it was described in 1847 and "Megamouth", a brand new shark, did not surface until 1976.

Jonathan Sale

BEWARE

THESE ARE DHSS SNOOPERS/FRAUD SQUAD KNOWN AS SPECIALIST CLAIMS CONTROL UNIT (SCCU). THEY ARE AT PRESENT WORKING IN YOUR LOCAL DHSS OFFICE AND WILL BE THERE FOR ABOUT 8 WEEKS



THIS GANG OF SOCIAL SECURITY SNOOPERS MOVE FROM OFFICE TO OFFICE HARASSING CLAIMANTS



REMEMBER! THEY ARE HERE TO STOP YOUR BENEFIT, SO... DO NOT LET THEM INTO YOUR HOME. DO NOT TALK TO THEM.

Cover blown: a poster seen in Hackney, East London

Watching out for the watchdogs

A n extraordinary game of hide-and-seek is taking place between a group of left-wing protesters and a squad of DHSS fraud inspectors in the unlikely setting of Bonhill Street, Shoreditch, London E.

The demonstrators are waiting for the arrival of a handful of men known as the Specialist Claims Control Unit.

The DHSS, anxious to conceal the men, are trying to avoid the almost certain presence of a photographer in a demonstration snapping all the hundreds or so staff of the office as they enter and leave. His purpose is to identify that handful of SCCU men, publish hundreds of posters containing their pictures thus blowing their cover and preventing them doing their jobs.

This is just the latest tactic in a four-year battle among civil servants at the DHSS.

The unit, due to start in Shoreditch this week, is one of 30 teams set up in 1982 to tour the country's 500 DHSS benefit offices, identifying and investigating possibly fraudulent claims. So far, the Government claims, they have saved the taxpayer £35m and probably, by their presence, deterred as much again being stolen from the system.

Opposing them is an alliance of fringe groups on the left which includes the Claimants Union (a sort of trade union for the unemployed), local politicians and militant trade unionists. But it is inside the offices that the real battles are fought. Relative militancy determines the amount of cooperation the unit will get. In view of the tip off by an inside "mole" to the opposition about the unit's proposed visit and London North region's notorious militancy, that cooperation could be very sparse.

The opposition inside is based on conference decisions of two of the civil service unions - the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) and the Society of Civil and Public Servants (SCPS) - instructing their members to fight the SCC Units, which they see as an instrument of Conservative policy and a threat to the rights of the unemployed. "They assume claimants are guilty until proven innocent," says the CPSA.

But you don't have to watch *Yes Minister* to discover that not all Civil Servants are sheep. Four distinct groups have emerged. They are:

● Those who believe the Government is right to try to stop the massive amount of fuelling, who say it is none of the civil service unions' business and the units should be helped. Some have resigned from the unions.

● Those who believe the policy is right, but abide by union decisions. Nevertheless they cooperate to a greater or lesser extent with the units.

● Those who believe the same as the last group, but come down on the side of the union and are not cooperating.

● Those who oppose the Government, back the unions and are fighting the units. "Moles" from among their ranks feed details of SCCU visits to outside groups.

The opposition case is based on the following claims: the units, some of them peopled by specially recruited ex-police and debt collectors, often bully and harass innocent people whose claims are genuine.

They cost more to run than they get back. They are forced on local offices, where their presence is resented and where, anyway, there is already an adequate fraud detection.

Such claims are rejected by the DHSS. They say there is not one proven case of harassment, and produce figures to show how cost-effective the units are.

They are also privately and most vehemently denied by members of the SCC Units to whom we have spoken. Investigation techniques used by the units include the following of suspects and the questioning sometimes of neighbours and employers. And the inspector we spoke to concedes that there are occasions - two men interviewing a young woman alone in a strange office, for example, who could give a lack of fact, be construed by the interviewee as harassment.

But he says their job could not be done without detective work or interviewing: "We find fraud in just over a third of the cases we look at - but only a tiny minority of these are ever prosecuted. Prosecution is mainly used where we know large sums of money - thousands - have gone and we have no hope of getting it back."

Seventy per cent of the frauds are claimants or their wives working while drawing supplementary benefit. Twenty per cent is couples living together and claiming separately - but this very rarely involves the "sex snooping" everyone thinks we spend our time at.

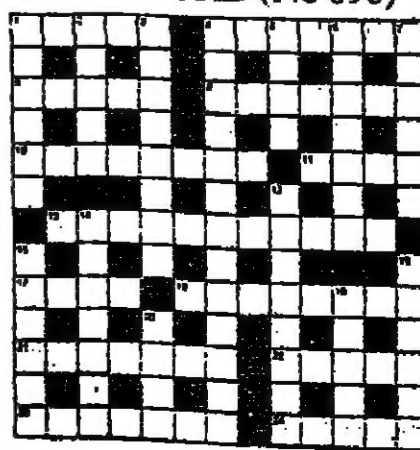
His figures are borne out of official statistics which show that SCC Units in 1983-84 visited 130 offices, investigated on average 80-90 cases in each and "adjusted" benefits in 40 per cent of them. The 200 staff cost an average of £10,000, but saved an average of £54,000 each in fraudulent claims.

One DHSS official with 20 years' experience in fraud investigations estimates that their presence alone in an area could well double the savings. "Word soon gets around and dozens suddenly go off the benefit - and we know those are the ones to watch when the unit has gone."

Rodney Tyler and David Potts

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MONDAY PAGE

Life at the court of King Dali

Salvador Dalí lies in a clinic waiting for death.
Pearson Phillips talks to the artist's companion for 15 years about their strange romance

The story opens in a Paris night spot called Chez Castel one evening 20 years ago. At one of the tables a set of courtiers was grouped round their monarch.

Among them was a woman called "Louis XIV" on account of her profile. There was a very thin girl called "San Sebastian" as were all thin people in that group of whatever sex. There were a couple of identical twins from London called John and Dennis "beautiful and bronzed from a holiday in Spain". And in the centre there was a podgy, balding, absurd-looking old gentleman with a waxed moustache, a gold-topped cane and a cold-lame wastcoat. This was Salvador Dalí, artist, professional genius and full-time exhibitionist.

Enter a weirdly dressed trio taking a rest from "Swinging London". There was Brian Jones, the Rolling Stone, in scarves, beads, broad-brimmed hat and sunglasses. There was a young man called Tara in frilled shirt and purple velvet suit. And there was Tara's girl friend, Amanda Lear, a six foot blonde with a voice like a Welsh harp, knee-high boots and thigh-high mini-skirt. She was at that time a fashion model, the product of an English father and a Russo-Chinese mother, who had grown up in the south of France and studied art in Paris and London.

Dali was intrigued. We have to depend on Amanda's own account for what happened the next day, after they had had lunch (orlunch at Lasserre's). "Clapping his hand tightly, he looked me straight in the eye and said: 'From now on we will never leave one another, you know that?'"

He was wrong.

For the next 15 years Amanda Lear appears to have filled the role of leading lady in his entourage (a role in which the actresses Ali McGraw and Mia Farrow had preceded her, "although I was the only one who was accepted in the Dali home at Cadaqués", she says. "They were just for New York and Paris").

"There is no little Dali any more", he told her when they last spoke on the telephone three years ago. "It is over..." Guarded by three associates known as "The Triumvirate", Dali now lives in a special clinic set up alongside his museum in Figueras, refusing solid food, sick, old and waiting for death. One knows exactly what will happen to his collection of his own art, worth an estimated £60 million. As an American collector puts it: "Dali is surrounded by jackals waiting for the corpse." (Four of his works are on show at the Tate Gallery, including his famous "Lobster Telephone" sculpture.)

And Amanda? The passing 20 years seem to have done her little harm. Now on the fringe of forty, there is a lingering Sixties feel about all her rings and bracelets and the single silver ear pendant bought in Cairo. The deep voice is now celebrated on record on the Continent, delivering Euro-disco pop. She has begun a new career as a television chat show hostess in Italy. "I am the Italian Janet Street-Porter."



Spiritual lovers: Amanda Lear as she is today and (right) with Salvador Dalí in his younger days when they were inseparable

"But I feel I betrayed him", she says. How? "By developing my own life and growing away from him. I stopped being his sweet little Amanda, his adoring audience. He developed his own career as a singer and, worst of all in his eyes, a painter. He didn't believe women were capable of being artists. He said people needed balls to paint."

On one amazing occasion Dalí's Russian-born wife Gala ("who looked on me with suspicion at first, but accepted me when she found I was not about to steal away her husband or his money") made her swear on an icon that she would never abandon him. "You will marry Dali when I am no longer here." In fact, she married someone else, and telephoned Dali afterwards. He was surprised. And so was Gala. "It seemed that a gulf between us was opening up."

It is in order to clear away that sense of guilt, she says, that she decided to write down the story of her life with Dali and tell the world what he is like "as a man, rather than as an over-publicised legend". It has already been published in France, Germany, Italy and, of course, Spain. Now it is Britain's turn. Anyone wading through *My Life With Dali* might feel that the unfortunate artist would have preferred her not to have attempted this service.

We discover a man with no teeth of his own ("they were taken by a New York dentist") whose favourite dish was lobster and chocolate sauce. One of his habits was to arrange for her to be splashing about naked in his swimming pool when he received guests, in order to show off what a pretty girl he had.

But what, exactly, was the

relationship? Was she another of his props, like his stuffed bear draped with jewellery, his sofa modelled on Mae West's lips, his gold-tipped canes or, indeed, his moustache?

The Dali code word for "sex" was "the sewing machine". According to Amanda this is a reference to "all that up and down". But in the symbolism of Surrealism "woman" just as always represented "man".

He did not, to borrow Dalí's phrase, "use the sewing machine". Not that it wasn't in the air. Amanda's version is that he obliged her by acquiring lusty young men for her own use, and would be keen to find out the details of what had gone on after they had been disposed of.

On one occasion a collection of specimens was assembled on the pretext that Dali was looking for someone to model for a painting of St Sebastian. If she liked the look of a bull-fighter, Dali would serve him up for her. "But they always turned out to be small, insignificant men with little to say for themselves", she says.

Their passion was mental and spiritual. "I knew nothing when I first met him", she says. "He taught me to see things through his eyes. Thanks to him I learned to despise Van Gogh and the wishy-washy Impressionists. Everything had to be clear and sharp to him, like the light of his native Cadaqués. The worst painter in the world for him was Turner. Vermeer and Velasquez were his heroes."

"He had a word for this process of brain-washing. He called it 'cristinizing'. He enjoyed 'cristinizing' people, transplanting his own outrageous view of life into theirs. He knew that most of the people who flocked round him, eating his food and drink and



aping his attitudes, were parasites. I used to hate to see him with those idiots. But he needed them for his performance."

Most of her book describes this travelling show in detail as it progressed between Paris, New York and summers at home in the sea-side house in Cadaqués. Amanda kept no diary, but says she has a photographic memory for details. It even stored up what they ate. ("I had the garlic chicken. He chose the steak.")

But what of the "real man" that Amanda promises to reveal? And what of his relationship with his wife, Gala, whose death three years ago seems to have caused Dalí's final decline?

There emerges a picture of a couple who were deeply attached, but who were wise enough to know that they needed periods apart. Living with Dali full time would be too demanding an experience for any mortal. Gala seems thankful that she could leave Dali in charge of Amanda, while she escaped, occasionally with young men of her own.

He could be a tyrant and a sulker. There was an occasion when Dali, Gala and Amanda went together to the Paris production of *Hair*. Gala found it noisy and dirty, but Dali "was in a thoroughly contrary mood for once and couldn't stop praising the show, and in particular a dusky actor with long hair". They left in the interval, went to a restaurant, and slowly the storm gathered. Gala said he reminded her of a parrot. Dali said he reminded her of a Renaissance angel. There was shouting and hanging of fists. People stared. Fanally Dali walked out, leaving Gala to settle

the bill. Amanda was amazed.

"What has happened to his famous thermostat, which was supposed to maintain him in a perpetual state of euphoria?" That evening, before my very eyes Dali had been surprised in a most "bourgeois" situation: he had shouted at his wife in public. Dali, after all, was just like any other man... but on the other hand, this made him more human.

Perhaps it was this incident that caused Amanda to decline when Dali proposed that they should go through a spiritual form of "marriage". She said she would prefer to be his sister.

She finally married a young man called Alain Philippe, who "had been the darling of Parisian café society". It was, she says, "neither his title of marquis nor his connections which impressed me". The Dalis were not impressed, either. "He doesn't look particularly unique", said Gala. Dali thought he had the look of a baby seal on the point of being massacred. But he is still at Amanda's side and says that he finds the whole Dali episode "something to laugh about."

When not living in Milan for the television show, they vegetate in a farm house in Provence. Amanda is painting again.

She even has Dalí's eye for publicity. She painted a portrait of the Pope in his swimming pool, and sent it to the Vatican.

"I hoped there would be pictures of him accepting it, with me beside him... but they returned it. I threatened to chain myself to the Vatican railings if they did not accept it, but it was no good."

In the art of "cristinizing" there is still no one to equal The Master.

My Life With Dali, published on July 27 by Virgin Books, £5.95.

Still stuck in the Cinderella syndrome

It was sad to learn from Radio 4's programme *The Marriage Maze* that some of the worst marital problems occur when a wife is employed and her husband isn't. Sad because this might become the employment pattern of the future and if we can't learn to accommodate this role-swap, both emotionally and psychologically we are going to be in a sticky time.

You don't have to be Machiavelli to see that from an employer's point of view, a female workforce makes sense. In the first place, it's cheap. Third World countries set up enterprise zones and lure international anorak manufacturers to them with tales of nimble-fingered local ladies who will work with a smile and a song for starvation wages. Much the same sort of thing goes on in places like Corsica, where the great hulking steelworks are gone, replaced by neat assembly lines, making trunks, little components and stuffed, in the main, by non-unionized women.

Second, women are so grateful. Whether they are sewing zips into anoraks or selling stocks and shares, they give up their lunch-hours without demur. The old objections about it being too expensive and wasteful to train women since they will all go off and have babies, are evaporating. Employers have found that after a short period of maternity leave, women workers return, more grateful than ever to be taken back.

I know a publishing company where the women all plan summer births so that nannies are installed and mothers back at work in time for the big autumn book launch.

Third, women are too busy and, quite possibly, too tired to get strop. Instead of going to evening union meetings, they sink off home, with the plastic carrier of groceries they bought at lunch-time, to cook the family's supper.

Given these circumstances, Machiavelli would surely dismiss every male worker and replace him with his wife. How tiresome then, as far as industry is concerned, that people find this situation unacceptable.

The Radio 4 survey reported that in households where the husband was unemployed but the wife had a job, there were several sexual problems and loss of respect for the man of the house. These problems were not so severe where both partners were unemployed.

This dissatisfaction is part of what's been called the Cinderella syndrome - a conviction held by women that one day Prince Charming will arrive and say, "Just wiggle into these glass slippers and let me take you away from all this." Or, on a more mundane level, that their husbands will get back from the office one evening and say, "I've been made deputy assistant manager in charge of foreign sales. Now you'll be able to give up your job and go to Sainsbury's on a weekday. Like a proper woman."

Proof that the Cinderella syndrome is still at large comes from another survey, this time a study called *The Priority Decision System*. In it, 60 male and 60 female middle managers were asked what they con-



PENNY PERRICK

sidered to be the most attractive qualities in the opposite sex. The men listed steadiness, sexiness, expression of feelings and humour. The women demanded understanding, intelligence, steadiness and income. These were not women who were too uneducated or untrained to earn a decent salary. They were executives, part of that new breed who wear tie-necked blouses and support tights and join women's network groups. What was the attraction, for them, of men with an income? Presumably, so that having got their hands on it, they could give up their own.

It may be another generation at least before we can accept that an ideal husband may be, through no fault of his own, incomeless but wonderful at massaging his wife's shoulders as she comes, white-faced and drooping, through the door after a rough day at the office. The woman who puts in hours of overtime so that her husband can have a new winter coat.

If you are over 35, I hope you are watching the series *Tandoori Nights* on Channel 4 on Thursday evenings, even if you do not much care for sit-coms. You should watch because it is about the Indian restaurant, and institution that changed the eating habits of an entire generation.

Before the advent of the curry house (BCH), during teenagers rarely shared a meal together - it was too expensive to do so. Then an explosion of flocked wallpaper and spicy smells hit almost every High Street providing somewhere warm and welcoming to sit for hours over a steaming dish of chicken vindaloo and half a pint of warm lager.

All those affordable evenings at *The Star of India* or *The Ganges* taught us restaurant manners: how to order food and drink, pay the bill and tip, but it also taught us how to talk to each other, which is perhaps why later we all got jobs in communications. As we grew older, we ate out way up in restaurants with pink napery, hotel dining-rooms with chandeliers and French establishments with octagonal white plates, but for those of us with long, sentimental memories, the good times still start with the crisp snap of a poppadum.

The Priority Decision System by Aigle and Foster (Work Sciences Associates, 1985).

Someone, somewhere is running a self-help group for you. Liz Hodgkinson reports

A directory for all your inquiries

In Britain, there is now a self-help group for just about every ailment, peculiar condition and problem that could possibly exist.

I know this because I've just been leafing through an amazing new reference book called *The Someone To Talk To Directory*. Published by the Mental Health Foundation, it is about the size and weight of one of the fatter volumes of Yellow Pages and lists more than 10,000 different organizations.

They are all there, from Alcoholics Anonymous to Zelig Weber Syndrome, taking in along the way such unlikely groups as Gemma (which caters for older, disabled lesbians), Solomates (for those with different sized feet) and special societies for one-armed golfers and blind darts players.

The fact that this vast directory, with its 708 pages, has come into being at all, is entirely due to a television producer called Penny Webb who was bored while on an interminable Christmas holiday.

Penny, a former health education officer, thought it would be a good idea to compile a card index of self-help groups. "It was just for my own benefit", she says. "I felt an index would help me in my work as a producer of community programmes. We were always needing to contact particular groups and we kept receiving requests from viewers as well."

"At first, I only intended to write down the names and addresses of a few key groups. But the card index grew into a hobby and then an obsession. In those days, six years ago, I was working for TVS and my job entailed a lot of travelling. I got into the habit of taking a pencil and paper with me everywhere I went. Whenever I



heard of a new group, I would take details then enter it on the card index system when I got home.

"Before long, people got to hear about me on the grapevine and I was starting to get phone calls from agony aunts such as Claire Rayner. Also, lots of groups began contacting me. In the end, I had 15 cardboard boxes which contained around 4,000 organizations. I just couldn't stop collecting names and addresses and cataloguing them."

"I was offered the job of senior producer of TV Services International, which produces programmes for voluntary agencies, and it was at this stage that the Mental Health Foundation heard of me."

"They had been wanting to complete a comprehensive self-help directory and offered to buy me, plus my card index system. As the whole thing was becoming completely unwieldy by this time, I was glad to agree. It meant that at last I had money to pay for postage and for checking addresses but it was still in my spare time."

Penny was lucky that her boss at TVSI was sympathetic. "His father had founded Mencap, and he said I could take phone calls at work so long as it did not become overwhelming."

A single parent, Penny soon discovered that self-help groups had a distinct tendency to be hydra-headed. "As soon as I checked one out and had it safely filed, another three or four similar groups would rear up. Just by checking the original 4,000, I came across another 8,000 or 9,000 groups."

"Where would we ever stop? In the end, the Mental Health Foundation set an arbitrary limit on 10,000, but long before that it got to that point where I could no longer physically handle the separate cards. A friend suggested I contacted the GLC to see if we could borrow their computer and the MHF paid the lady to key in 10,000 addresses. She got through 200 a day."

Most of the financial support for the project came from the NatWest Bank, who put up £15,000. The whole operation

took a year and all of Penny Webb's spare time. "I enlisted the help of my teenage children and their friends and, by the end, my living room was completely full of names and addresses. We put them all into separate counties as it's cheaper to mail them this way."

"We had to check out carefully the more exotic sounding groups, in case they were a joke. We were sure that one, called Roast A Pensioner, was a joke and we rejected it. Too late, we found it was a genuine organization to help old people with fuel in winter. Another problem was that so many had the same name. There are about 5,000 Open Doors, for example."

Self-help groups are always an accurate indication of the preoccupations of a society. The directory reveals that there are now literally hundreds of help groups for homosexuals. There are also many refugees specifically for Asian women and youth counselling is another popular growth area.

Penny Webb feels the directory can never hope to be definitive. "Since completing it, I've come across at least another 9,000 groups. I'm adding to the database all the time. The idea is to up-date the directory every year or so, but if we tried to be truly comprehensive, nobody would be able to lift it off the shelf. It's bad enough as it is."

The directory is not cheap - it costs £20. So who will buy it? Penny Webb says it will go to libraries, doctors' surgeries, health education authorities and Citizens Advice Bureaux. "I doubt that many private homes would be able to afford it."

The *Someone To Talk To Directory* is published jointly by the Mental Health Foundation and Routledge Kegan Paul at £20.

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY
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FRIDAY
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THE TIMES DIARY

Swanee song

Speculation is rife in that upright club, the East India, following the abrupt departure after some eight months of its secretary, David Unwin. The club is now advertising for a £25,000-a-year replacement under the anonymous guise "a long established and successful gentlemen's club". The Savoy-trained Unwin, a former secretary of the RAC, is rumoured to have been a shade too "commercial". He certainly turned its losses into a profit. After a "no comment" to PHS he went on: "I am a very commercial animal. Clubs must never be seen to be commercial but they have to be, otherwise they go down the Swanee." Asked if the rumours were true, he said: "I must be careful. I have a certain contract I don't want to break. Unwin is now going to open his own catering outfit. Commander Robin Whalley, the club's chairman, told me yesterday: "You have heard the official version for his departure. I think it's better if we stick to that. Meanwhile the Athenaeum, haven for bishops and academics, is also advertising to replace its outgoing secretary, Captain Denis Wyatt. The salary? By arrangement.

Owen up

An Alliance minder rang yesterday to disclose "how we won Brecon". "I couldn't have told you this before, but we drew a strict 'cordon sanitaire' around the traditional Labour mining communities, and kept out David Owen. These areas round Ystradgynlais, where the SDP are regarded as 'traitors', were dubbed 'Dodge-Free Zones' throughout the campaign." The Tories, on the other hand, foolishly went for a "blitzkrieg" and confronted the old miners with Tebbit et al. The rest is history.

On a plate

And where was the grand old man of the Alliance, Roy Jenkins, when the Brecon result was announced? Partaking of claret with me in that SDP and Labour haunt, the Gay Hussar in Soho. Jenkins, who fruitlessly tried to obtain a radio, fretted to end until restaurant owner Victor Sassie banged a spoon against an empty wine bottle to declare the result. Cheers and clapping erupted, and diners raised their glasses in a toast. Ever the patrician, Jenkins simply bowed his head discreetly.

● Brecon Tories might have fared better if they had hit on the right slogan. At a recent Commons dinner, John Biffen recalled his fight to take Dick Crossman's seat in 1959. After much thought, his loudspeakers blared: "Crossman's an intellectual - you can vote for Biffen."

Dene and Di

Mrs Thatcher listens to Radio Four's Today, but the Princess of Wales prefers Capital Radio's pop and prattle. How do I know? Because on shaking hands with Capital DJ Graham Dene at a Wembley concert last week she remarked: "But your hands aren't sweaty at all." That morning, it seems, Dene had owned up to the air to his perspiring palm problem.

BARRY FANTONI



'How can you have wild life without a disco?'

Accolade

The Navy's chief PRO, Captain Guy Lardet, could soon be picking the plank. He has just given Clive Ponting's Belgrano book, Right to Know, a qualified rave review in Navy Review. Disagreeing with Ponting over the legitimacy of sinking the Belgrano, and whether war was inevitable once the task force had set sail, Lardet nevertheless praises his "well-researched account of the 'cover up'" and "careful and accurate" narrative of events up to the sinking.

Police violence

The government may soon have to put an electrified fence round Brent Council in London. Last week I reported how a black journalist punched and threatened to kill a black SDP member of the council's education committee. Now I hear of yet another brawl in Brent - at the police sub-committee. Labour councillor Graham Durham became so irritated with Tory group leader Bob Lacey during a debate on South African policing that he grabbed his collar and a brawl ensued. "It was like a build-up to a football riot," says an observer. A special council meeting was called, and a motion was passed calling on Durham to apologise. Yesterday Durham protested: "I grabbed his collar because he called me a liar." Lacey was not available for comment.

PHS

David Owen calls for a resumption of talks on a total test ban



Potential nuclear weapon leaders: Gandhi (India), Zia (Pakistan), Peres (Israel), Gaddafi (Libya), Botha (South Africa), Chiang (Taiwan)

How the bomb can stop mushrooming

History tells us that political leaders desire to acquire nuclear weapons because they perceive the need for nuclear deterrence or because their political ambitions need to be buttressed. If one examines the political-military situation of the countries most likely to become nuclear weapon states in this decade - India, Pakistan, Libya, Iraq, North and South Korea, Taiwan, Brazil, Argentina or Israel - one can see both political and military pressures combining to extend proliferation. Nuclear proliferation is therefore not an abstract but a very specific problem.

Documents such as the Non Proliferation Treaty, due for review this year, have only limited effectiveness. Whether the superpowers limit their warheads will not make much difference to the present of Pakistan whose security concerns - and political objectives - are primarily driven by regional and national pressures. The one action by the superpowers that would influence him would be the announcement of an immediate moratorium on all nuclear testing.

The consequences of a total test ban, in addition to curbing proliferation, would be to slow the nuclear weapons role in the important area of warhead design. Banning tests would not stop nuclear warhead development. But a ban would be a modest step back from the ever increasing sophistication and numbers of nuclear warheads and delivery systems.

The situation in the Indian sub-continent now makes the arguments over a total test ban a matter of vital practical politics. There is little doubt that Pakistan's scientists and military will soon be asking President Zia for permission to carry out a nuclear test.

Even though India claims its own test in 1974 was purely for peaceful purposes, the prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, has made it clear that for Pakistan to acquire nuclear weapons would completely change the military balance; India might resume testing.

No longer can the United States credibly claim that its relationship with Pakistan will be sufficient to hold President Zia back from testing a nuclear device. Perhaps the only preventive action that President Zia would find hard to override would be an immediate agreement to a moratorium on testing involving

initially the US, the Soviet Union and Britain, to be followed by a comprehensive test ban treaty, perhaps to be signed by those three as well as China and France. In addition, with the supply of 810 kyttons from the US to Israel, which can be used as part of the trigger mechanism for nuclear bombs, there is renewed evidence of Israel's status as a nuclear weapon state. With the leak of information and further speculation over a possible South African nuclear test in 1979 there is a growing belief that South Africa also has nuclear weapons. All of this strengthens the case for urgently reopening the test ban negotiations. One wonders what other events have to happen to demonstrate the urgency to the US administration.

The search for a total test ban is still the most formidable challenge facing us all, particularly the Soviet and American leaders. Yet before they can sign such a ban as responsible leaders they will have to satisfy three essential questions. ● Whether it would damage the safety and reliability of their existing nuclear stockpiles. ● Whether a ban would prevent them undertaking new weapon development to assure their citizens they can retain at the very least an invulnerable second strike capability. ● Whether a test ban can be verified to give a sufficiently credible guarantee that the superpower they most fear will not be able to cheat.

These questions are not semantic quibbles or excuses for inaction. They have hitherto bedevilled the achievement of a comprehensive test ban. They cannot be wished away; they have to be analysed in detail, particularly now if we are to restart the test ban negotiations so unwisely stopped by the US, with British acquiescence, in 1982.

Firstly, the stockpile or "shelf life" argument, which surfaced only within the context of a test ban as a major issue in 1977-78. Until then, not a single US or British nuclear test had been undertaken to confirm the reliability of stockpiled weapons. The shelf life argument was then - and I said so within government - a deliberate diversion, the protection of a vested interest by the nuclear testing laboratories at Los Alamos, Livermore and Aldermaston.

The US and UK scientists lobbied hard inside the military and political establishment to check progress towards a comprehensive test ban. They were even prepared to argue that the nuclear stockpile would become so unreliable that the warheads would lose their utility as a deterrent. The lobbying was so successful that President Carter felt, by the middle of 1978, that he could not get congressional agreement to both test ban treaty and Salt II. He rightly gave Salt II priority but also ensured that the political push behind the principle of a test ban began to weaken.

Behind the second argument over whether a test ban would prevent new weapon development lies a tendency among the nuclear scientists to exaggerate the extent of recent technical advances. In fact no significant breakthroughs have taken place in the US or British weapons laboratories since the hydrogen bomb. Some argue that testing has helped to refine the warheads in terms of size, safety and reliability, but these changes are more a reflection of metallurgical and design advances and could and would have been introduced irrespective of a testing programme.

In the US and the Soviet Union there is such a vast backlog of detailed and wide-ranging knowledge of all likely new warhead designs that there would be few

inhibitions to their developing a new weapons system. Britain, too, has sufficient in-depth knowledge of single warhead design to manufacture unaided.

Verification has all along been the most serious obstacle to negotiating a CTB treaty. In negotiations up until 1980, only seismic techniques had been discussed. Yet everyone knows that seismic observations would always be supplemented by intelligence from satellites. Glenn T. Seaborg, chairman of the US Atomic Energy Commission from 1961-71 and a Nobel prize winner, has since written that the breakdown in negotiations for a test ban in the early 1960s was wrongly brought about by US insistence on obligatory on-site inspection.

With each passing year since then, the ability to monitor compliance with a CTB has become more assured", he wrote in 1983.

That view is mirrored by others, including leading US and UK warhead scientists.

Yet despite this the US in particular but with Britain closely involved, has blocked the resumption of CTB negotiations. It is one of the most shortsighted decisions for which President Reagan and Mrs Thatcher, in marked contrast to Kennedy and Macmillan, must accept the main burden of responsibility.

Reagan, speaking to the UN General Assembly on September 24, 1984, proposed in a strikingly specific passage that "We find a way for Soviet experts to come to the United States nuclear test sites, and for ours to go to theirs, to measure directly the yields of tests of nuclear weapons. We should work toward having such arrangements in place by next spring."

We are now well past that spring date and it appears nothing has happened. Indeed it is unclear whether there has been any follow-up of the idea. The US seems to be giving very little priority to this field. Yet it could be the one area of arms control that might show early progress if, because of the American Strategic Defence Initiative, the Geneva negotiations stall.

Dr Owen, leader of the SDP, was Foreign Secretary, 1977-79. This article is extracted from a recent speech to the Groupe de Belleville Colloquium in Geneva.

Richard Bassett on the political malaise threatening Austria's radical paper

Will the socialists stop the presses?

longer be papered over. The party, and with it the entire standard of political debate in Austria, has declined.

Violent clashes at power station sites, a discredited defence minister still to resign for meeting a Nazi war criminal on his repatriation to Austria - these cannot be explained solely by the lack of charisma in the ranks of the country's politicians. They are only the symptoms of a more persistent malaise, a widespread feeling that socialism in Austria has lost its way.

In the Arbeiter Zeitung offices the bow-tied portraits of Viktor Adler and Otto Bauer gaze down on journalists who admit that the present Socialist Party is out of touch with many of its traditional supporters. It has lost its intellectual, who cannot tolerate the ineptitude of the present Socialist-Freedom Party coalition. The older cabinet members, moulded by Kreisky, have left: those who remain are outnumbered, ignored and powerless.

The new generation, led by the sincere but increasingly beleaguered Chancellor Fred Sinowatz, have little time for ideas, even less a concept of the media's importance and no interest in a party newspaper which attempts to promote discussion. Comfortable in their official



positions, undisturbed by an opposition incapable of exploiting its failures, Austrian socialism has entered a deep sleep worthy of a bewitched figure from a Grimm's fairy tale.

It was only a matter of time before the paralysis began to affect the brilliant of the Arbeiter Zeitung. Unique among the country's lame-lambs, this failing in Austrian socialism is disturbing. The present rosy economic situation tolerates political lethargy. But in the event of any serious economic or social crisis it is impossible to predict where the thousands of disillusioned socialists would turn.

The Austrian's love for nostalgia may yet preserve the title of the Arbeiter Zeitung but stronger forces are needed if the country's no less celebrated socialism is to survive.

the all-consuming desire to lead a quiet existence. Their aloofness takes its toll, however. The success of the green movement over the last year illustrates all too clearly where the intellectual left is drifting. Grassroots support is also showing signs of disintegration. Only the lack of any alternative political force prevents their increasing cynicism being channelled into another party.

In the foreign editor's office, Dr Georg Hofmann von Osenhoff sees the old socialism dying in Austria: "The new political generation of socialists at the top of the party hierarchy want to sweep aside anyone who has a tradition of political thinking."

As committed socialists reared for the most part in the old school of Red Vienna, it is not easy to accept that their party cannot tolerate dissent. Its preference for reaching decisions through the momentum of bureaucracy is particularly worrying in a country which has always preferred to be administered than governed and whose labyrinthine civil service is only strengthened by party and government indecisiveness.

In a painfully class-conscious society where phrases like "proletariat and peasants" enjoy a currency far greater than in Britain, this failing in Austrian socialism is disturbing. The present rosy economic situation tolerates political lethargy. But in the event of any serious economic or social crisis it is impossible to predict where the thousands of disillusioned socialists would turn.

The Austrian's love for nostalgia may yet preserve the title of the Arbeiter Zeitung but stronger forces are needed if the country's no less celebrated socialism is to survive.

anything we think might do us harm, even outside territorial waters."

In addition to the threat of sea-launched guerrilla attack, the undermanned, under-armed Israeli navy is also facing mounting danger from the Arab nations, some of whose warships are said to have sea-to-sea missiles with a range of up to 125 miles.

"Israel is seriously threatened from the sea for the first time in its history," said the former commander of the navy, Rear Admiral Ze'ev Almog. "By the end of the decade, 130 ships equipped with advanced missiles will be operating in the Mediterranean, all capable of striking at Israel."

Senior naval officers, aware of the navy's relative lack of glamour compared with the well equipped army and air force, have been pressing for money to modernize their missile boats and to replace their three Vickers 206 submarines, which are regarded as dangerously outdated.

Young naval officers believe that the main potential threat comes from a naval coalition between Syria and Libya. To counter it they have been studying, among other things, the Royal Navy's role in the Falklands war.

Christopher Walker

Anne Sofer

Opinions the polls don't register

Some weeks ago I realized that the afternoon of July 5 - last Friday - was one to be kept clear in the diary at all costs. The Brecon and Radnor result was due around 12.30 and the Wimbledon men's semi-finals were to start at 2. An afternoon to be spent in front of the telly.

As it happened both events were delayed by a couple of hours - the by-election result by a recount and Wimbledon by a thunderstorm. Switching from channel to channel to check on the action, I got confused. The two experts' chat shows - manfully ploughing on to fill the gap, speculating on the chances, raking over historical parallels - seemed to be saying the same things...

"This seems to be the end of a long period of supremacy" (Thatcherism or McEnroe?). "Certainly the build-up to this moment has been thoroughly professional" (Boris Becker or the Labour campaign). "Well, the experts really got it wrong this time" (the opinion polls or the Wimbledon seeding committee).

It is the last comment I want to concentrate on. Why have the polls recently got it so wrong? Have they been slow, like the tennis experts, to spot new trends, notice rising talent, chart the first signs of falling powers? In a period of high volatility are the existing techniques simply inadequate? It matters very much to the polling organizations, for this is a rapidly growing industry. It matters even more to the political parties - particularly to the Alliance, whose success depends heavily on credibility and which has repeatedly illustrated that it can attract large surges of support once people think it can win.

Three possible explanations exist. Either the sampling methods are at fault, or people change their minds very much at the last moment, or they are not telling the pollsters the truth. Much of the discussion seems to revolve around whether the first or the second explanation is the more likely, and that debate I leave to the experts. But it is the third possible explanation that is never explored.

Why not? Party canvassers know perfectly well that some people on the doorstep lie about their intentions. None of us, I believe, thinks any the worse of them for that. The ballot after all is secret and many people feel it is something of an intrusion to be asked how they are going to vote. Furthermore, some people promise to vote for anybody just to get rid of the canvasser and can never be bothered to ensure that all canvassers to ensure they will not be pestered to come out and vote on polling day.

But whereas the political parties adapt their canvass returns to take account of these phenomena, the pollsters apparently assume that people will give them an honest answer. Yet I suspect that in a period of shifting political allegiances, many people do not want to admit to anyone - hardly even to

themselves - that they are breaking with habitual loyalties.

This applies particularly to former Labour voters, and I am never surprised when opinion polls over-estimate actual Labour support. The whole ethos of the Labour Party is one that emphasizes loyalty, solidarity, sticking together. People who leave it are regarded not simply as people who have changed their opinions, or made a new political assessment, but as traitors and turncoats. It is a common experience for Alliance canvassers to encounter people who will not admit that they are voting for our candidate unless they are sure the rest of the family is out of earshot.

A lot of this has to do with the concept, much in vogue, of "self-image". It is important for many people, to have a left-wing self-image. People who have always cared about good causes, supported their local schools, worried about cruelty to animals and racial intolerance, have sometimes come to think that self-identification as a Labour voter is part and parcel of all that. Such people could have the policies of Labour and the Alliance laid side by side and find that in every case they preferred the Alliance's and yet find it a wrench to tell the opinion pollster that they were going to vote anything but Labour. In the secrecy of the polling booth, however, they might furtively follow where their intelligence was leading them.

There is also a smaller, but more conspicuous group whose Labour loyalty is a necessary part of their self-image of radical chic, along with the Fiorucci jeans and the faded Che Guevara posters but happily Brecon and Radnor has few of these.

Traditional Conservative voters have a different attitude to loyalty. After all, the Conservative message is one that exalts freedom and individuality and no moral opprobrium (only the accusation of soft-headedness) attached to a voter whose opinions lead him elsewhere. Indeed some Conservative voters who have no serious intention of voting anything but Conservative make a positive virtue out of appearing broad-mindedly to be considering all alternatives. "My vote's in nobody's gift," they imply. "I'll make my own mind up when the time comes."

Voters like this probably get marked down by the pollsters as "unreliable". Knowing this, I am again unsurprised that the final polls in Brecon and Radnor underestimated the Tory vote, poor though it was.

But it is the Alliance voter that is grossly under-estimated. Our voters know, when the issues are put and the policies debated, what it is they want. But for many, self-identification as "Alliance voters" is still tentative because it is so new. It is that which we both the Alliance and the Tories must work on to get the opinion polls recording the support we know is there.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

moreover... Miles Kingston

A few words from our sponsor

The proprietor of this column, Lord Moreover, has secretly been working on a book which he has tentatively entitled *The Wit and Wisdom of Lord Moreover*. It is mainly composed of thoughts that occur to him while he is trying to stay awake at board meetings or during after-dinner speeches. He has graciously allowed me to make a selection for today's column.

Always be deeply suspicious of anything labelled Great Britain. The Great British Sausage still has bread and tastes. The Great British Invention, fish and chips, depends on the theory that fish tastes best cooked inside something like an edible oven glove, and that chips should go soggy almost as quickly as corn flakes. I have even seen an advertisement for the Great British Mushroom, which comes well from a country which thinks there is only one kind of edible mushroom.

Always avoid establishments with lavatory doors marked Gays and Dolls.

It never occurs to us that people at other restaurant tables might be listening to our conversation.

Nature sometimes makes gross errors. The wood-love has been endowed with perfect streamlining and an average speed of less than 1 mph.

Never make an after-dinner speech. Up to twenty years later, people will still be claiming close friendship with you on the basis of having been in the audience that night.

When a person addresses you as "Sir", it is not a sign of his social inferiority (quite the opposite, probably), it is a sign that he recognizes you have more money than he does and that he is about to try to retrieve you of some of it.

Time seems to be relative on television. In the time it takes an Australian fast bowler to walk wearily back to his mark on BBC-2, I have seen a British girl on BBC-1 come on to the Centre Court and be beaten 6-0, 6-0.

After Christianity had scored a victory by installing a Gideon Bible in every hotel bedroom, atheism hit back by installing a colour TV.

Whoever designed the Union Jack obviously never realized that by the end of the 20th century it would be used chiefly as a garment, or he would have designed a very different pattern. I have never met anyone, thin or fat, whose figure was flattened by wearing the Union Jack. Gardening should never be confused with a love of nature - indeed, it is quite the opposite, as gardening

consists of growing a few species and stopping many species from growing at all. I would estimate that a gardener spends three-quarters of his time killing things. Farming is an advanced form of gardening, as it consists of growing one thing and attempting to kill everything else in nature. Finally, a farmer kills the thing he's grown.

I know many secret homosexuals who would dearly love to come out, but are afraid of doing so because they know they would look ridiculous in a monstache.

No matter how well we rinse ourselves, we always find one area of thick lather on our body after a bath, usually just as we are finishing drying ourselves.

Never use establishments with lavatory doors marked Stallions and Fillies.

There is a certain air of grim, dogged but battered determination, a feeling of resigned joylessness, that I have encountered only in country churches. Left-wing bookshops and unfashioned marital aid centres. So much optimism, so little expectation.

A businessman once told me that he disliked nouvelle cuisine, because it was so clumsily arranged on the plate, the helpings were too big and the food was almost always overcooked. He was, of course, a Japanese businessman, and thus used to the real thing.

We hear a great deal about the success and failure rate of marriage, but no one has yet devised a system of measuring the success rate of being unmarried.

An experiment I would like to see tried, besides the two normal Customs (Something to Declare) and (Nothing to Declare) there should be a third one. Something to Declare But Not Going To Admit It, just to see how many people went down it. I would estimate between 4 and 8 per cent.

Do not patronize places with lavatory doors marked Señores and Señoras, except of course in Spain, and then only with caution.

Have you ever noticed that telephone kiosks at major rail stations in London are covered with girls' names and their telephone numbers, all promising you a good time? I once mentioned this to a senior BR official, who told me that prostitutes' rooms all over London are covered with the phone numbers of the main railway stations. It's a reciprocal arrangement," he said.

FIN Ex

What says

I can recall... approaching me... forecasting... moments... consequence... of the Brecon... little... analysis of the... This is inter... making. For... that the Govern... its economic... a much better... public spending... money... services to... vote. Yet to... be added... struggle to red... interesting to... which combin... the burdens of... is the certainty... sign.

Thus we... between mem... not just betw... the "consolidat... tally between... more chance... making new... policy direction... that the Govern... bedrock of... take risks. And... the Prime M... "consolidating... attitude in... European M... This makes... where Brecon... economic pol... time alternative... Alliance. This... deficit, a major... membership of... of the "strategy". The... sector borrow... billion - comp... £7 billion - and... boost to public... minor increas... considerably... grammes and... contributions... nounced.

There is... designed to... que, would... than Mr Law... everyone eva... remember that... was screaming... billion, and... state. The All... Budget, propo... plunge in the... average for 1... turn makes... cent for this... when the mo... that with the... But more of th... a less obvi... point, perhaps... would have... with precisely... services as... alternative Bu... buy off the... I spent mo... Chancellor ha... and would th... same struggle... avoid electo... Dr David I... and the urge... public-sector... part for r... be recently ga... these point... Thacher's m... value for mon...

Critic sta pays

By Chris... A property... thead a m... chemical produ... off toxic fu... a fire, could... windfall... Parkdale Ho... invested... per cent stake... old Crutcher H... support... tenon after... takeover bid... Other City... Morgan... Grei... broker Rowe... year profits c... £850,0... of Crutcher... £1 million... to customers... accessories... - I other filings... heavy duty ind... Promoted by... conflict the cc... developing pi... sensitive elect... which do no... on no... Orders so... encouraging... I was propos... a business... with a £4.5... the quoted... group.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 3EZ.
Telephone: 01-837 1234

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ON THIS DAY

JULY 8 1923

Ferdinand VII of Spain, released by Napoleon, began his reign in 1814. By 1820 his despotic and inefficient rule had alienated all classes and for the next three years he was virtually a prisoner of the Cortes. France came to his assistance at Cadix which after a short siege surrendered. Ferdinand died in 1833 leaving a disputed successor - the cause of the Carlist wars of the next 40 years.

SPAIN.

THE KING'S REMOVAL.

The first business transacted by the Provisional Regency after their appointment on the night of the 11th, was the replacing of the Secretaries of State to which they at first objected with much difficulty. At last, after considerable difficulties, they resumed their functions at five in the morning of the 12th, there by showing 'Expectador' that "the feelings of the nation were not less founded were all to be sacrificed on the altars of the country, and more particularly in circumstances so critical".

At eight in the morning of the 12th, Don Gabriel Ciscar, one of the members of the Regency, went to the King, explained to his Majesty what had been done up to that time, and pointed out the necessity of his proceeding on that day to the Isle of Cadix. The King received the Regent very graciously, and informed him that he was ready to undertake the journey, upon which Don Gabriel withdrew.

While the preparations for the removal were in progress, messengers were repeatedly despatched between the Regency and the Cortes, and General Espinosa was appointed to command the escort. At one o'clock the troops of the line and the Madrid and Segovia militia were ordered to be ready to march, the baggage was shipped on board of vessels in the river, and every thing was arranged for a prompt departure. But at four o'clock it was said that his Majesty, notwithstanding his illness, was ready to march, the baggage was shipped on board of vessels in the river, and every thing was arranged for a prompt departure. But at four o'clock it was said that his Majesty, notwithstanding his illness, was ready to march, the baggage was shipped on board of vessels in the river, and every thing was arranged for a prompt departure.

Cogent comment of this kind has come from many of your correspondents, while the analysis of contributions to your journal and its contemporaries has generally been helpful in the same sense. Much the same may be said of the recent report on polytechnics, parts of which are reminiscent of the well known lampoon of an O & M report on orchestral playing which complains of duplication and overmanning in the string sections, and of playing without music during a concert.

If an education scandal has come to light, it is that responsible people could make assumptions analogous to thinking that the working week of a politician can be equated with the number of hours he spends addressing the House.

Your correspondents Mr C. U. M. Smith (June 28) and Professor D. C. Colley and Mr S. Chomet (June 29) remind us that there is nothing new in attacks on education and research in the name of supposed material utility. These attacks were repulsed in Victorian times and again in the 1930s and Britain was thereby helped to become a great and cultivated country. "Let us forget" they must be repulsed again in our time.

After the King and the Royal Family were removed, the Constitutional Alcaldes ordered an illumination, and respectable householders were called out to the streets to light up their illumination, perhaps contributed to promote the disturbance which followed symptoms of which had shown themselves at one point during the day. In the forenoon, of the 12th, a multitude of vagabonds, including a large proportion of Gipsies and Moriscos, began to plunder the boats on the river. The rabble increased in the evening and many individuals were insulted and robbed, and some killed. During the night the tumult augmented, and various houses were pillaged; in the mean time the *Giraldos* was magnificently illuminated. On the morning of the 13th the robberies and assassinations were renewed and continued until a part of the evening. Regiments and the Artillery which had been left for a garrison, marched to Triana and dispersed the mob with some fatalities; six of them were killed. This tumult was chiefly excited and kept up by the influence of the priests. The plunderers were led on with cries of "Viva Fernando" - "Viva la Religion" - "Viva la Inquisition".

THE PLOT TO CARRY OFF THE KING.

This plot which has been mentioned in the French papers, is alluded to in the Cadix journals, but no minute details are given. We find it, however, stated in the *Expectador* of the 18th ult. that Sir John Dorel and eighteen other persons were apprehended on a charge of conspiring to destroy the Constitutional Government. In a long political article in the same paper a reference is made to the following: "We have to observe, that if the patriots most compromised in the constitutional system have not fallen into the power of their ferocious enemies, it is because the grand political stroke attempted at Cadix failed. This ferocious conspiracy to get possession of the person of the King, to assassinate the Cortes, and the brave national militia, was opportunely discovered by the zeal and patriotism of two worthy Spaniards...."

"A female figure on the spire of the cathedral of Seville."

I thought your readers might like to know.
Sincerely,
SPIKE MILLIGAN,
9 Ormeau Court, W2.

Little-known phrases

From Mrs Jean Buckley
Sir, Reading Miles Kingston's brilliant column (July 2) on "language essentials" brought to mind my first visit to Finland. I found an old phrase-book (this was 1961) and the ones that most impressed me were "Be quiet, and eat your porridge." "Excuse me, I hate to trouble you, but your motorcycle is standing on my foot!"
Sorry, I've long since lost the book, but I remain.
Yours faithfully,
JEAN BUCKLEY,
35 Knight's Hill,
West Norwood, SE27.

Research overrun by bandwagon

From Professor P. B. Fellgett

Sir, Since the subject I profess is practical, applied and relevant to modern high technology, it might be supposed that it would benefit from the current emphasis on "useful" research, but the opposite is true. Successive waves of fashion among politicians, copied by news media and imposed on the University Grants Committee and research councils, have disrupted the steady progress of our proper work. Subjects which we have successfully pursued for years have been overrun by one bandwagon after another, with the tendency rather to drive us into the ground than to carry us along.

The ill-understood repetition of words and phrases, such as micro-processor, robotics, information technology and fifth-generation computer, has distracted attention from the research that ought to be done, as well as concealing and confusing the real content and merit of the subjects which these designations should properly cover.

This is but one example of confusion about the function, process, and service to the community of education and research. Sir Keith Joseph's Green Paper has been roundly criticised for the poverty of its vision and inappropriateness of its criteria.

In an imperfect world good must sometimes be snatched from ill, and an unintended effect of the Green Paper has been that whereas previously those who spoke for universities and other institutions of learning and research mainly decried it as expedient to let the principles pass and try to mitigate the damage in detail, many who assessed in this way are now convinced that a piecemeal approach is insufficient and that the fundamental unsoundness of the premises on which political decisions are being based must be argued.

Yours faithfully,
ALLEN SYKES,
Millington,
The Mount, Chichester, W Sussex.
July 3.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FELLGETT,
Department of Cybernetics,
University of Reading,
3 Earley Gate,
Whiteknights, Reading,
July 2.

Behind the terrorist

From Mr Louis Heron

Sir, Last Night (July 3) I watched the tail end of an interview on BBC's *Newsnight* programme, in which Mr Charles Wheeler, a very good correspondent, rather aggressively asked Mr John Chancellor, an equally good American TV correspondent, to explain what he regarded as the excesses of American TV reporting of the hostage crisis in Lebanon.

He obviously believed that American TV had gone far beyond the normally acceptable bounds of journalistic behaviour. Mr Chancellor explained the American position, and went on to say that at no time did American reporters interview the terrorists who had seized the TWA plane. Being a polite American, he did not remind Mr Wheeler that BBC reporters had interviewed IRA terrorists, who are just as nasty as the Middle East variety.

May I suggest that the BBC, and indeed much of the British media, should stop being so sanctimonious when dealing with our friends across the Atlantic.
Yours etc.
LOUIS HERON,
Fleet House,
Vale of Health, NW3,
July 3.

The price of diamonds

From Mr Terence Alan Milligan

Sir, Interested to read Michael Hornsby's article (July 2) on the economy of Namibia. The Black nationalists mention the "plunder" of their territory; I would go along with this.

The year before last I flew from Walvis Bay, by light aircraft, to Johannesburg and I asked the pilot to fly over the diamond concession, and I personally was horrified at what I can only describe as ravaging of the coastline by giant machines, more mutilated than a World War I battlefield. There had been no attempt at re-landscaping the coast. In the true sense it was the ravaging of the earth's minerals, without any thought as to the ecology, and this went on, I suppose, for hundreds and hundreds of miles. It was a most depressing sight.

Need for rethink on gas privatization

From Mr Allan Sykes

Sir, In your July 2 second leader you urge the need for avoiding a monolithic coal industry in isolation from customers and markets. You stress that the wider national interest requires the industry to be split and run efficiently and competitively. Precisely the same reasoning should apply to the privatization of the British Gas Corporation (BGC), but this is not the Government's intention.

The oil industry are worried about present plans, but they are inhibited from speaking out themselves for two reasons: first, the BGC looks like remaining the sole purchaser for their gas; second, the sponsoring privatization ministry, the Department of Energy (DE), is also the oil and gas exploration licensing authority. As such licences are the lifeblood of oil companies they are ill-placed to dispute public policy matters in their industry. It is thus important for others to air all the major issues now while time permits.

The general case for privatization is that it raises efficiency by increasing the importance of market forces at the expense of political and bureaucratic influences. The more a nationalised industry is sensibly capable of being broken up the greater the likely gains in efficiency from the benefits of decentralised decision-making and competition.

Breaking up the BGC up into, say, regional units will not make distribution, an inescapable monopoly activity, competitive. It will, however, permit efficiency comparisons and cause welcome competition in the development of more efficient marketing policies and in the purchase of gas.

The monopoly buying rights of the BGC largely destroyed the incentive for gas exploration in British waters between the late 1960s and early 1980s to the clear detriment of the British economy, export earnings and jobs. That should not be allowed to happen again. Gas purchasing should be split between regional gas authorities

performed as well as the organisation required for the purpose) divides what should be a unified operation. If such a rigorous review was part of the Civil Service management ethos we would be fortunate indeed - regrettably this is not the case.

Current political attitudes towards the Civil Service such as cutting, slashing, removing, abolishing, bludgeoning etc. etc. are mildly popular, because it sounds as if something is being done or there is a quick (or expedient) remedy at hand.
Yours faithfully,
P. RICHMOND,
71 Roman Hackle Avenue,
Swindon Lane,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire,
June 26.

From Mr M. M. Sennett
Sir, As a headmaster whose staffing allocation is expressed down to the place of decimals, I read David West's article (June 26) with anger. What a waste of time and energy, particularly that part which described over-staffing at the Department of Education and Science.

Clutter, Sir Keith?
Yours faithfully,
M. M. SENNETT,
18 Church Road,
Chislehurst,
Kent,
June 26.

Two faces of Telecom

From Mr R. G. Selby-Boothroyd

Sir, I can confirm that at least one British Telecom employee would agree with Mr Engleheart (June 26) that the shareholders may grin while some of us bear it.

Last Saturday morning, a relative of mine attempted to discover, from an engineer at my local telephone exchange, why her attempts to dial my telephone number had continually resulted in the "unobtainable tone". She was told that the number had been disconnected because a bill had not been paid.

When she pointed out that the subscriber had not been living at the house long enough to have been presented with a bill, let alone long enough to have had the opportunity to default on payment, she was told that there was nothing that could be done until the bill was paid.

When asked what kind of a service the engineer thought this represented, he replied: "We're not here to give a service; we're here to make a profit for our shareholders."

While British Telecom remains the only potential supplier of our telephone service, its shareholders can, presumably, continue to expect profits from the business of not giving the service.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. SELBY-BOOTHROYD,
63 Furlong Road,
Bourne End,
Buckinghamshire,
June 26.

allowance for the labour costs of despatch.
The present situation makes the case for a "Freedom Bill" all the more pressing, because that would establish the principle of a free flow of official information so vital to a healthy democracy, a principle which is being effectively destroyed by charges. Once that principle is firmly established by statute, the secondary issue of administrative costs can be considered on a sensible basis.
Yours sincerely,
JOHN FRANCE,
10 Brynfield Road,
Langland,
Swansea,
West Glamorgan,
July 3.

Taking up cudgels for the needy

From the Director of MIND and others.

Sir, The Secretary of State for the Environment will shortly announce local government expenditure targets for 1985/86. Recent public debate has focused on the rate-capping legislation and the increasingly steep penalties incurred by authorities who have exceeded their grant related expenditure assessment (GREA). As directors of major charities providing services we are concerned with the effects these may have on those we serve.

Before this year's targets are announced, Government must recognise the severe limitations and consequences of GREA - in particular those for personal social services. There is now considerable disparity between the Treasury view and local assessment of need. This mismatch exists regardless of who is the controlling local political party and is increasing each year.

In particular, we believe that the Government should consider changes (a) to the calculation more accurately reflect social changes, for instance the increase in the number of over 75s; (b) positively to encourage local authorities to undertake joint financial expenditure with health authorities and not penalise them for so doing in future years; (c) to encourage further take-up of partnership and various special measure projects, particularly in conjunction with voluntary organisations.

Present social service provision - statutory or voluntary - is far from perfect and needs continuous reappraisal. But the penalties now affecting many local authorities, far from encouraging change, act as positive disincentives against innovation and against partnership with the voluntary sector.

Government should now discuss with those parties concerned a serious reassessment of the GREA strategy. In particular we believe it should exempt from penalties certain expenditure, such as that under Section 137, or that incurred by authorities themselves or funded by them which has been encouraged by or has resulted from various Government programmes.

Unless the Government is prepared to make these changes, the consequences for the clients whom we serve could well be catastrophic.
Yours sincerely,
CHRIS HEGINBOTHAM, Director,
MIND.
JOHN COX, Director,
BOB MORLEY,
CLIVE JORDAN,
British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres,
CAROL SMART, Director,
National Council for One Parent Families,
BRIAN RIX, Secretary General,
Menap,
VALERIE LIPMAN, Acting Director,
Pensioners' Link,
BOB MORLEY,
Family Welfare Association,
PAUL SOMMERFELD, Director,
London Voluntary Services Council,
LIZ HOODLESS, Director,
Community Service Volunteers,
GEORGE WILSON, Director,
RADAR,
Voluntary Organisations Personal Services Group,
c/o MIND,
22 Harley Street, W1,
June 27.

Homes for the asking

From Mr Graham Don

Sir, Mr Hoyle's cure (July 3) for the shortage of private rented accommodation regrettably does not tell us what he considers to be a "fair market rent".

In Greater London today it is impossible to build a small two-bedroomed flat for less than £35,000. Anyone with such a sum to invest can obtain 10 per cent per annum from a building society. His capital will be safe and he can sit back and enjoy life while his money works for him.

If he decides to invest in rented accommodation he must (a) spend his £35,000, (b) set aside an annual sum for external repair and decoration, (c) insure the property and (d) employ an agent, unless he wishes to collect the rent and do the other management chores himself. He will naturally and reasonably expect a better return on his money than the £3,500 he can so easily get from a building society.

Would he think £4,500 per annum a "fair market rent"? The tenant would, of course, also have to pay rates a minimum of £500 per annum. Is there a great demand in London for unfurnished accommodation at that price? I doubt it.

When one speaks of "the housing problem", one is speaking of the housing of the poor and the relatively poor. Rich people do not have housing problems: they have houses.

The thousands of homeless people in London are unlikely to be greatly cheered by Mr Hoyle's proposals.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM DON,
60 Regent Square, Bow, E3.

Freedom to know

From Councillor John France

Sir, As Chairman of Economic Development for the city of Swansea I have, for the past two years, routinely received a copy of the monthly press release in which the Welsh Office gives full details of unemployment figures for Wales. I have now received a note from the Welsh Office stating that this press release will no longer be sent to me, but that I can have it if I pay £10 a year for the privilege.

This may seem to be a trivial sum, but the principle of charging for government statistical information seems to have become deeply entrenched, and the sums being asked are becoming very high. In 1983 the city of Swansea asked

CURING CONSULTANTS

The embarrassment that the Government still feels over the Auditor-General's refusal to approve some of the accounts of the National Health Service is not the simple shame caused by proof of State incompetence. The Auditor-General made the inevitable response to evidence supplied by the Department of Health and Social Security that in at least 37 local health authorities the system by which private patients pay the NHS for use of its staff, time or facilities is being abused.

Mr Kenneth Clarke's reaction to the problem was to set a DHSS civil servant to work on scrutinising the "operations, costs and benefits" of the existing system. Whatever radical plans the Government might have for the family practitioner services, about which it is soon due to publish a Green Paper, it seems somewhat reluctant to take decisive action on revising the terms and conditions of service of hospital doctors, and the provision of day-beds in NHS hospitals. But in looking to rationalise this system it must be understood that the failure of the National Health Service to move on from the compromises and deals made with the vested interests of the medical profession of 1948 is the principal cause of current difficulties, and superficial alterations to methods of collecting fees will improve efficiency only in the short term.

Approximately four times as many private in-patient admissions were recorded in this country last year as twenty years earlier. The growth in popularity of private insurance schemes, and the commensurate burgeoning of a private hospital sector (financed extensively by American capital) have facilitated choice. The central case for maintaining pay beds in NHS hospitals is no longer, therefore, as strong as it was in the days of Mrs Barbara Castle.

Nor is the more pragmatic case that paybeds in NHS hospitals improves the efficiency of consultants so strong today. Before Barbara Castle most in-patient practice was conducted in NHS hospitals so that a consultant, though perhaps consulting with or operating on a private patient, was there in the NHS hospital and easily available for ad hoc consultations about NHS patients; furthermore he had a vested interest in the efficient running of his NHS hospital. After Barbara Castle, consultants moved much of their private work to the new private hospitals so that they were away from their NHS hospitals more; they were no longer so available for ad hoc NHS consultation and their administrative efforts were more likely to be directed towards their private hospital than their NHS one.

When the NHS was founded consultants were offered the option of working "maximum part-time" for the NHS, doing nine half-days a week for 9/11ths of the full salary. The flexibility of this contract, which is held by regional health authorities even though the consultant will be paid by his district, allows scope for as much private work as the

BRASILIA BOUND

Sir Geoffrey Howe today begins an official visit to Brazil - surprisingly only the second ever paid by a British Foreign Secretary. Last year we exported nearly £250m worth of British goods to Brasilia - but imported more than £630m worth of their produce in return. It is the eighth largest economy in the world, yet less than two per cent of its imports come from Britain - a fact that is regretted in Brazil almost as much as it is over here. There are long and historic Anglo-Brazilian connexions which successive governments have failed to exploit. That it remains the biggest source of our tobacco in these days not something to be boast about. But the Ministry of Defence's recent decision to choose the Tucano trainer aircraft for the RAF (to be built by Short Bros in Belfast) was a sign that perhaps things are changing.

Brazil is in a position, both geographical and diplomatic, to qualify her for an important role in our lingering dispute with Argentina. Geographically, Britain will need to establish air links between the Falklands and the South American mainland - particularly in an emergency on the long flight South. Diplomatically, Brazil remains Argentina's protecting power while relations between London and Buenos Aires are fractured - and is thus an important interlocutor. The Government is still awaiting a reply to the proposals it put to President Raul Alfonsín of Argentina through our own

protecting power, Switzerland, last January. Although Britain is still adamant in its refusal to negotiate over sovereignty of the islands, there are pertinent questions over where we go from here and Brazilians, who are closest to the Argentines, might be in a position to provide some of the answers.

But this is to look at our relationship with Brazil in the narrowest of senses. As a world power it is currently most famous for its debts - still around £100,000m dollars - and its soaring inflation. A healthy foreign trade surplus last year generated a wave of optimism - and the prospects for this year look almost equally good. But the public sector deficit at home remains alarming.

Still Brazil is clinging to its new-found democracy, despite the death of Tancredo Neves, the president on whom so much seemed to depend. Companies are still willing to invest there, showing confidence that Brazil has the underlying resource base to pull through.

To say that Brazil is the country of tomorrow - and always will be - is a sardonic commentary on a state which is having difficulty in realising its potential. But the arguments for developing a closer Anglo-Brazilian relationship are strong. It is a matter of regret that Sir Geoffrey has to cut short his planned week-long visit in order to return on Wednesday night for Thursday's cabinet on public spending.

the poll register

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ADVERTISEMENT

THREE OUT OF FOUR LONDONERS WANT A SINGLE ELECTED AUTHORITY FOR LONDON.



Recently the Harris Opinion Poll showed clearly how Londoners felt their city should be run.

Three quarters believe London as a whole needs a democratically elected authority.*

On the other hand, the Government seems to think that in some cases the 32 individual boroughs can take the place of a single body.

Most Londoners know that a city as large and as complex as London needs one authority to co-ordinate many of its services.

In other cases they seem to think that Joint Committees and Government controlled Quangos will know what's best for the people.

That cannot be right when they're not directly elected by Londoners.

The fact is, no matter what anybody thinks of the way the GLC runs London, Londoners still want a single elected authority to perform the same function.

Today the House of Commons still has time to listen to what the people are saying. We think they should.

*SOURCE: HARRIS OPINION POLL APRIL 1985 FOR THAMES NEWS (THAMES TV).

GLC, COUNTY HALL, LONDON SE1

BERGLYN miners' seases

Dr. Berglyn, who converted a small, ill-equipped department into one which was large and well-equipped, has been a very successful man with a very inventive mind from which ideas bubbled. He has been remembered for a number of his discoveries, and it was the determination to produce pneumoconiosis in miners which he was recently consulted by a number of men from all over the world who had novel ideas on the application of chromatography to the study of geochemistry. He was a persistent advocate of the possible exploitation of geothermal energy for Britain at a time when such suggestions were not fashionable. They are now, however, of much later date, receiving considerable attention.

QUAY

Dr. Quay himself was a prisoner from 1942 to 1943. But the Netherlands Union had no enemies then and later.

Dr. Quay's early career has been an academic one. He was a Roman Catholic University professor. After the war, he became Minister of War in 1945 and the Governor of Brabant from 1946 to 1949.

He was, therefore, somewhat of a political outsider when, in 1959, he was asked to take the delicate negotiation for the formation of a government. He succeeded in forming a coalition between the Catholic People's Party to which he belonged, the Protestant Christian Historical Union, the Calvinist Anti-Revolutionary Party and the Liberals.

He eventually retired from politics in 1969.

ERT SULZBACH

He joined the Pioneer Corps in the year.

He then embarked on a task of explaining the principles of liberal democracy to German prisoners of war, many of whom had known nothing of Nazism. This he did first in Comrie, in Perthshire, and then at Featherstone Park in Leicestershire, with such success that he was felt to have made a real contribution to Germany's postwar life.

A Featherstone Park Academy was formed in Düsseldorf of which Sulzbach was the first president.

He remained in the country until December 1944, when he stayed in Britain for the rest of his life, enjoying both his own and German nationalities. In 1951 he was invited to join the new West German Embassy where he worked for the German reconstruction.

In 1971 Sulzbach was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic, and in 1978 the Grand Officer of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic. He was awarded OBE in 1982 for services to Anglo-German friendship.

His wife, Betty, whom he married in 1923, died in 1982.

OTTO WÜSTER

He was the manager of the personnel department at CERN.

He was known as "bringing a keen mind and a very healthy knowledge of the atom theory" to the CERN project, which meant that he was able to understand the technical requirements of the project.

He was given the duties for the CERN project in June 1952, and was appointed Director of the Joint Undertaking in 1954.

He was a member of the European Council of Ministers, and operated as a diplomat in the status of demonstrating the feasibility of the project. He was a member of the staff of the CERN project, and required a number of technical and diplomatic skills.

He was a member of the political JET project, and was known for his time and energy in the project. He was a member of the Queen's Council, and attended the Queen's Council.

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

What Brecon and Radnor says to the Chancellor

I can recall Mr Bob Worcester of Mori upbraiding me for comparing opinion polling with the vagaries of economic forecasting. Well, both categories of scientific magician have their nasty moments, and I merely note one sad consequence of the polls' misapprehension of the Brecon and Radnor result: it gives little confidence in poll-based analysis of the reasons.

This is important for economic policy-making. For there is a natural assumption that the Government was brought low by its economic performance; that high unemployment (dropping uncertainly just a notch before polling day) combined with public spending woes, rising inflation and monetary confusion to reduce the Conservatives to roughly a quarter of the total vote. Yet to these electoral handicaps can be added others such as a European struggle to reduce milk surpluses - less interesting to urban-based commentators - which combine to give a picture of a second-term government accumulation of the burdens of office, of which the biggest is the certainty of making enemies at every step.

Thus we have the critical divide between members of the Government. It is not just between the "tax-cutters" and the "consolidators", but more fundamentally between those who want to take no more chances, between now and 1988, of making new enemies by developing new policy directions; and those who reckon that the Government is down to the bedrock of party loyalty and had better take risks. And in this division, it is often the Prime Minister who is on the "consolidating" side - as witness her attitude to mortgage tax relief or the European Monetary System.

This makes it rather less easy to say where Brecon and Radnor could shift economic policy. Consider the Budget-time alternative offered by the victorious Alliance. This proposed a bigger Budget deficit, a monetary policy governed by membership of the exchange-rate mechanism of the EMS and an incomes "strategy". The Alliance proposed a public sector borrowing requirement of £8.9 billion - compared with the Chancellor's £7 billion - with no real tax cuts, but a big boost to public capital expenditure, some minor increases in social security, and considerably more on employment programmes and of national insurance contributions than the Chancellor announced.

There is little doubt such a package, designed to shift more people off the dole queue, would have been more popular than Mr Lawson's careful budget. With everyone except the financial market: remember that in February half the city was screaming at him to cut below £7 billion, and the pound was in a parlous state. The Alliance can fairly reply that its Budget projections actually assumed a plunge in the sterling index, from 79.0 (the average for 1984) to 69.5. However, this in turn makes its inflation forecast (6.9 per cent for this year) look pretty suspicious, when the monthly figure is higher than that with the sterling index touching 92. But more of the exchange rate in a minute.

A less obvious, but no less important point, perhaps, is that such a Budget would have left a ruling Alliance party with precisely the same problems in public services as the Government faces. Its alternative Budget did not allocate cash to buy off the teachers or the nurses: indeed it spent money elsewhere that the Chancellor has reserved for contingencies, and would thus have implied exactly the same struggle to control costs in order to avoid electorally-damaging cuts.

Dr David Owen, at least, has appreciated the urgency of the need to improve public-sector management, introduce payment for results, and measure output: he recently gave a far tougher speech on all these points than we tend to hear from Mrs Thatcher's ministers. Cost control and value for money are not easy vote winners

with the large minority actually employed in public services; but then Dr Owen simultaneously proposes controls on pay in the private sector, where rapid increases have exacerbated public sector resentment.

The inflation tax, now formally espoused by the Alliance's most formidable politician, would be an administratively hideous. Dr Owen is on to a smart point by suggesting that the productive way for companies to wriggle round it would be to issue shares instead of higher pay, but no doubt they would engage in plenty of bogus productivity agreements too. That such a complex and electorally unappealing scheme should now be part of the armoury of a vote-winning party says a good deal about the public's perception that the Government has not solved the pay problem.

Here the Chancellor is, to some extent, the victim of his own conflicting rhetoric. At a time when unemployment has risen to the head of the list of public economic anxieties, he has been telling us that rapid pay increases destroy jobs, while offering nothing except exhortation to the unions to avert further destruction. Either he must accept the workings of the labour market-place, suitably freed by reductions in trade union power, or he must get in there himself with the baggage train of regulation and sections Dr Owen is carting around.

Precisely the same confusions relate to the Government's policies on the exchange rate and public spending, and it is no accident that it should have now been treated to diametrically opposed interpretations of its intentions in the leading Sunday papers on both topics. In January, the Chancellor was caught between the desire to maintain a domestically-driven monetary policy and the threat of parity with the dollar, which sent conflicting signals into the Sunday headlines. Last Saturday Mr Lawson was caught between the desire to take credit for public money spent and for the effort to control it, which meant that yet again he was simultaneously reported to be sticking grimly to his policies and u-turning away from them.

On public expenditure, the position remains much where it has been all along. Mrs Thatcher would like to cut taxes but cannot fully control public-sector costs and is therefore limited in her ability to limit public-sector budgets without damaging services, which is far more unpopular than failing to cut taxes. For 1986, the margin for tax cuts was evaporating long before Brecon and Radnor strengthened the hand of public service ministers in her Cabinet: so it did in 1980, when she was most dramatically caught between spending departments and the pursuit of financial prudence. All along, public expenditure has risen in real terms, and would have risen faster if the Government had not received a cumulative £8 billion in privatization receipts up to and including this tax year, which have helped to finance token cuts in taxation. It would hardly be much of a U-turn to shuffle on in the same crabwise direction.

No one could suppose the voters of Brecon and Radnor were much interested in the exchange rate mechanism of the European rates. Adherence to a semi-fixed exchange rate could well, on occasion, require higher interest rates than a domestic target, but it is the Government's bad luck that the reverse should presently be the case, with the exchange rate against European currencies clearly suggesting an interest-rate cut. This will no doubt make the EMS more popular, and increase the cost to the Government of failing to pursue the logic of its own shift towards exchange-rate targeting as the leading instrument of counter-inflationary monetary strategy.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

Critchley stake pays off

By Cliff Feltham

A property group which backed a manufacturer of electrical products that do not give off toxic fumes in the event of fire, could be set for a windfall.

Parkdale Holdings, based in Leeds, invested £300,000 for an 8 per cent stake in the 100-year-old Critchley Holdings last year to support a management buyout after an unwanted takeover bid.

Other City backers include Morgan Grenfell, Midland Bank pension fund, and the broker Rowe & Pitman. Last year profits of the company touched £350,000 on turnover of £7 million.

Critchley is a leading supplier to customers like BT of cable accessories - the conduits and other fittings which go with heavy duty industrial cables.

Prompted by the shipboard fires during the Falklands conflict the company has been developing plastics to cloak sensitive electronic equipment which do not release deadly halogens on combustion.

Orders so far have been encouraging. Last year's buyout was proposed when the family-run business was approached with a £4.5 million offer from the quoted MK Electronic group.

McAlpine court award

A joint venture between Alfred McAlpine and Suedrohrbau, the West German company, has been awarded about £15 million by the International Chamber of Commerce court of arbitration against a Kuwaiti company, Kuwait Metal Pipe Industries.

The award comes after a seven-year battle for payment for work carried out on a pipeline in Sudan between 1974 and 1977. It is the largest award for the British construction

industry for several years. The dispute arose out of work to lay an 815-kilometre pipeline from Port Sudan to Khartoum in Sudan. The employer was Kuwait Metal Pipe Industries.

The chief executive of McAlpine, Mr Bobby McAlpine, said: "We are naturally pleased that an international court has awarded money which is rightfully due to us for work carried out, although we had hoped for a slightly higher award."

There are increasing fears that a new Cocom list of restricted goods, due to operate from July 25, will worsen the situation deteriorating further.

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WEDNESDAY - Interim: Eurotherm International Graham Trust, M and G Dual Trust, Percom, Romney Trust, Southern Business Leasing, Tace, Vantona Vyella, Finest L Joseph Holdings, Magret and Southern.

THURSDAY - Interim: Anglo-American Securities Corporation, Birmid Qualeast, First Leisure Corporation, Granada Group, A Kershaw and Sons, Rank Organisation, Rank Industries Holdings, Tribune Investment Trust, Webber Electromechanics.

FRIDAY - Interim: Britoil, TSL Thermal Syndicate, Finest Elwick Hopper, Johnson Matthey, Oldacre Holdings.

Today - Interim: Goring Kerr, Kennedy Brookes, SGS Group, Pinnacles, Barrie Investments and Finance, Battleys of Yorkshire, A F Bulgin, Carlo Engineering Group, Gilbert House Investments, F H Lloyd Holdings, Memon International Holdings, Vinton Group.

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Opec pegs prices but agrees to change quota system

From David Young, Vienna

Opec is to leave its world oil price structure unchanged and develop a new quota system which will allow its 13 members to react to any seasonal upturn in world oil demand without flooding the market with oil and putting downward pressure on prices.

The oil producers' cartel agreed yesterday in Vienna that it will concentrate its efforts on finding a way of policing its production control system and of making it "adjustable" so that member states will be able to share more equitably in any increase in world demand due to seasonal factors, or to any upturn in world demand for a particular type of crude oil.

The oil ministers have been meeting in consultative sessions and have still to convene a full ministerial meeting. The extent and length of the consultative sessions make it



Dr Subroto: seeking to stop malpractices

clear Opec is determined that any proposal to be put to a full ministerial meeting will emerge with unanimous backing.

Members already agree on the issue of prices, even though Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian oil minister, has played no direct part in the

discussions. He has been "indisposed" with a heavy cold.

While the Sheikh's illness is being regarded as more genuine than diplomatic, there are suggestions within Opec that only when a definite agreement on a new output system - Saudi Arabia being allowed a larger share of the cake - will he resume control of negotiations from his deputy.

The Opec president, Dr Subroto, the Indonesian oil minister, said yesterday: "We have agreed that the Opec price structure will be defended and the output quota can be made seasonally adjustable, and how certain malpractices can be stopped."

By malpractice, Dr Subroto means quota breaking by member nations.

The inclusion of a clause in the output agreement to cover changing world demand for different types of oil will be a

direct result of the British miners' strike when heavy oil for Britain's power stations was in constant demand and upset its price relationship with the normally better selling light crude oil.

Dr Arturo Grisaná, oil minister of Venezuela, one of the countries facing severe pressure to cut oil prices by its mainly US customers, said yesterday: "A sharp decrease in oil prices would endanger stability in world financial markets. Countries like Mexico, Venezuela, Nigeria and many others would have serious difficulties in honouring their debts."

Development plans in producing countries would have to be curtailed; imports from industrialized nations would be cut back, and billion-dollar contracts held by international companies in oil exporting countries would be imperilled.

Cut in taxes still possible say brokers

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

Big tax cuts are still possible in the next Budget, despite an oil revenue shortfall, according to three economic reports published today.

The reports, from the stockbrokers, Laing & Cruickshank, Simon & Coates and James Capel, say that there will be no need for the Chancellor to shelve his tax-cutting plans in the Budget next March.

Mr Malcolm Roberts, economist at Laing & Cruickshank, says that the Chancellor should stick to his plan to cut taxes by £3.5 billion next March, even at the expense of an increase in borrowing.

He says: "The Chancellor must cut taxes next year. The economy will slow down from now on and inflation through deep cuts in personal taxation will be required to keep the economy moving beyond the spring."

Mr Gavin Davies at Simon & Coates says that there will be room for £2.5 billion of tax cuts if the Government is prepared to borrow £8.5 billion rather than the planned £7.5 billion.

Extra sales of public sector assets, to total £3 billion rather than £2 billion, and a £1.5 billion reduction in the reserve, will give the scope for tax cuts.

The economists at James Capel, who forecasts that there will be no room for tax cuts in the next Budget are too pessimistic.

Computer exports warning

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Britain's instrumentation, control and automation industry, including most of the computer hardware and software companies, has warned the Government that export licensing delays are threatening millions of pounds worth of orders.

The industry, whose exports are running at about £1.7 billion a year, has already lost a "significant" number of orders because of the delays, according to Gambia, the industry's trade association. The industry exports about 70 per cent of its £2 billion a year output.

A Gambia delegation is to discuss its anxieties with Mr Paul Channon, Minister for Trade, at a meeting scheduled for July 25. It will be the minister that the members are concerned about the Government's ability to operate effectively the licensing system laid down to control exports of security-sensitive equipment in line with the Cocom (Co-ordinating Committee for Multinational Export Controls) agreement involving most Nato countries and Japan.

There are increasing fears that a new Cocom list of restricted goods, due to operate from July 25, will worsen the situation deteriorating further.

Posgate is likely to return to Lloyd's

By Alison Eadie

Mr Ian Posgate, the Lloyd's underwriter who was so successful that he earned the sobriquet Goldfinger, is likely to be allowed to trade at Lloyd's again after a meeting today of Lloyd's ruling council to consider a judgement by Lord Wilberforce.

Mr Posgate had appealed against a Lloyd's disciplinary committee's sentence of expulsion against three of the so-called "Gang of Four" in the Alexander Howden affair - Mr Kenneth Grob, former chairman and chief executive of Howden and Mr Ronald Comery and Mr Jack Carpenter, both directors.

Lord Wilberforce, who heard Mr Posgate's appeal in May, is understood to have reduced the sentence of expulsion to one of suspension for three years. Mr Posgate has been suspended from working in the market for two and half years, so Lord Wilberforce's decision would free him to return to work early next year.

Mr Grob, Mr Comery and Mr Carpenter did not appeal. The Howden affair blew up in 1982, after the American



Ian Posgate: appealed against expulsion

insurance company Alexander & Alexander Services, bought Howden and uncovered financial irregularities. Alexander & Alexander alleged that \$55 million (£42 million) from Howden syndicates, of which Mr Posgate was the underwriter, was paid into offshore reinsurance companies to benefit the Gang of Four and Mr Posgate was acquitted of all charges of benefiting from misappropriated money, but the disciplinary committee found him guilty on two lesser charges of receiving a Pissarro painting from Mr Grob as an inducement to place business with Howden and disclosing a 10 per cent holding in a foreign bank.

Cape faces \$80m bill for damages

By Ian Griffiths

The level of unpaid damages awarded against Cape Industries from successful claims in the United States for compensation relating to asbestos-linked diseases has risen to \$80 million (£60 million). Cape's failure to pay the damages has resulted in some claimants bringing actions against Charter Consolidated, which owns a 67.3 per cent stake in Cape, in an attempt to recover the damages.

Cape has not answered claims in the American courts which have come mainly from users of its asbestos products. The company has no manufacturing operations in America and no assets there.

Actions have been filed against Cape in Britain in a further attempt to recover the damages. Cape's legal advisers have advised that these actions will not succeed.

The level of payments in Britain for compensation relating to industrial disease shows little change. Last month Cape revealed that it made payments of \$900,000 for compensation in the 15 months to March 31, against £775,000 in the previous year.

IN BRIEF
Bid verdicts expected

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is expected to decide this week whether to refer two important takeover bids to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

They are the bid by Burton Group for its rival retail group, Debenhams, and the £300 million bid for Arthur Bell, the whisky distiller, from Guinness, the brewer. Both bids have been bitterly contested in recent weeks.

The Bell offer has revived the question of whether Scottish companies should be allowed to stay independent.

Gas pressure

The National Gas Consumers' Council has called on the Government to safeguard users' interests when its planned privatisation of British Gas goes ahead next year. It wants a regular body with powers to veto excessive price increases and a consumer campaign organization to protect customers' requirements.

Britain's car imports are far higher than official figures show, according to a report by the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University. Two out of three cars are effectively imported, says Mr Daniel Jones of the unit. By adding the number of components purchased for cars built here the official import figure of \$7 per cent rises to 66 per cent, he claims. Car companies dispute the findings.

Bank closes

Pacific Banking Corporation, a major Filipino commercial bank, was put into receivership with effect from Friday, the Central Bank announced in Manila yesterday.

Eurodollar deal

A Eurodollar borrowing consisting of \$300 million (£227 million) principal amount of 10% ten-year notes of 1985, due July 24 1995, has been made by the World Bank. The issue was offered at 99.50 per cent.

ICI plan

Imperial Chemical Industries is believed to be considering a proposal to create the post of chief executive. At present the chairman, Sir John Harvey-Jones, is supported by two deputy chairmen. The plan, if adopted, would be implemented after Sir John retires.

Ordinary shares, page 19

EVEN WITH OUR HELP, A BUY-OUT MAY INVOLVE THE ODD SACRIFICE.

A management buy-out is challenging, exciting, and potentially extremely rewarding. But we won't pretend it's easy.

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We're delighted to say that so far, Premier-Grip has achieved its projections and is moving forward steadily.

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PROFIT FROM OUR SKILLS

ATHLETICS

McKean closes swiftly to make fast work of rivals

By Pat Butcher

Tom McKean has a happy look which is worth more than his last times that many young athletes seek. He wins races, and if the post-race British athletics aficionados, coaches, officials and hangers-on are sloughing around looking for likely successor to Steve Ovett, Sebastian Coe and Steve Cram, they need probably look no further.

The Scot from Motherwell, aged 21, followed up what seemed a surprise win over Cram in Gateshead last week with another exciting sprint to win the 800 metres in the Britain, East Germany and Japan match, sponsored by Pearl Assurance, in Birmingham yesterday.

The fact that McKean had not just a race in two years was being put down to a couple of weeks ago to the fact that the 100 week labourers could not afford to travel outside his native Scotland. But even though the British administration have not grasped the

need, or in this case the thrust, and ensured that this young man does not have to spend many more days laying paving slabs for a living, he has again proved to be a winner against some very good opposition.

McKean was smart enough to check the advice of Ovett just before the young Scot took on Detlef Wagenecht, of East Germany, a man against whom Ovett has won frequently. "Ovett told me to let the German lead, because he hasn't really got a kick, just a sustained drive for the win. With 200 metres to go, there was no point in running wild against Chris McGeorge, so I just waited until the straight".

The wait was worth it for McKean and for us. For he provided another scintillating finish to excite the crowd in outpacing the former European junior champion, Wagenecht, and McGeorge, who had himself surprised Ovett in the Gateshead 1,500 last week.

SATURDAY
100 METRES: 1. A. McKean (GB) 10.20 sec. 2. L. Cochrane (GB) 10.30 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 10.31
400 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 49.59 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 50.00
800 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 1:58.22 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1:58.23 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1:58.24
1,500 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 4:05.10 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 4:05.11 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 4:05.12
5,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 15:30.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 15:30.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 15:30.02
10,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 31:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 31:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 31:00.02
20,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 62:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 62:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 62:00.02
40,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 124:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 124:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 124:00.02
80,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 248:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 248:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 248:00.02
160,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 496:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 496:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 496:00.02
320,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 992:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 992:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 992:00.02
640,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 1984:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1984:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1984:00.02
1,280,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 3968:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 3968:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 3968:00.02
2,560,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 7936:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 7936:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 7936:00.02
5,120,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 15872:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 15872:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 15872:00.02
10,240,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 31744:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 31744:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 31744:00.02
20,480,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 63488:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 63488:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 63488:00.02
40,960,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 126976:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 126976:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 126976:00.02
81,920,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 253952:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 253952:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 253952:00.02
163,840,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 507904:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 507904:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 507904:00.02
327,680,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 1015808:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1015808:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1015808:00.02
655,360,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 2031616:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 2031616:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 2031616:00.02
1,310,720,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 4063232:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 4063232:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 4063232:00.02
2,621,440,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 8126464:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 8126464:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 8126464:00.02
5,242,880,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 16252928:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 16252928:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 16252928:00.02
10,485,760,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 32505856:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 32505856:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 32505856:00.02
20,971,520,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 65011712:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 65011712:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 65011712:00.02
41,943,040,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 130023424:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 130023424:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 130023424:00.02
83,886,080,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 260046848:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 260046848:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 260046848:00.02
167,772,160,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 520093696:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 520093696:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 520093696:00.02
335,544,320,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 1040187392:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1040187392:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1040187392:00.02
671,088,640,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 2080374784:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 2080374784:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 2080374784:00.02
1,342,177,280,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 4160749568:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 4160749568:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 4160749568:00.02
2,684,354,560,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 8321499136:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 8321499136:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 8321499136:00.02
5,368,709,120,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 16642998272:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 16642998272:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 16642998272:00.02
10,737,418,240,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 33285996544:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 33285996544:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 33285996544:00.02
21,474,836,480,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 66571993088:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 66571993088:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 66571993088:00.02
42,949,672,960,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 133143986176:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 133143986176:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 133143986176:00.02
85,899,345,920,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 266287972352:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 266287972352:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 266287972352:00.02
171,798,691,840,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 532575944704:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 532575944704:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 532575944704:00.02
343,597,383,680,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 1065151889408:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1065151889408:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1065151889408:00.02
687,194,767,360,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 2130303778816:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 2130303778816:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 2130303778816:00.02
1,374,389,534,720,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 4260607557632:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 4260607557632:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 4260607557632:00.02
2,748,779,069,440,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 8521215115264:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 8521215115264:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 8521215115264:00.02
5,497,558,138,880,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 17042430230528:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 17042430230528:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 17042430230528:00.02
10,995,116,277,760,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 34084860461056:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 34084860461056:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 34084860461056:00.02
21,990,232,555,520,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 68169720922112:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 68169720922112:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 68169720922112:00.02
43,980,465,111,040,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 136339441844224:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 136339441844224:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 136339441844224:00.02
87,960,930,222,080,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 272678883688448:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 272678883688448:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 272678883688448:00.02
175,921,860,444,160,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 545357767376896:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 545357767376896:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 545357767376896:00.02
351,843,720,888,320,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 1090715534753792:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1090715534753792:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1090715534753792:00.02
703,687,441,776,640,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 2181431069507584:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 2181431069507584:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 2181431069507584:00.02
1,407,374,883,553,280,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 4362862139015168:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 4362862139015168:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 4362862139015168:00.02
2,814,749,767,106,560,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 8725724278030336:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 8725724278030336:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 8725724278030336:00.02
5,629,499,534,213,120,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 17451448556060672:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 17451448556060672:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 17451448556060672:00.02
11,258,999,068,426,240,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 34902897112121344:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 34902897112121344:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 34902897112121344:00.02
22,517,998,136,852,480,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 69805794224242688:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 69805794224242688:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 69805794224242688:00.02
45,035,996,273,704,960,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 139611588448485376:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 139611588448485376:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 139611588448485376:00.02
90,071,992,547,409,920,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 279223176896970752:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 279223176896970752:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 279223176896970752:00.02
180,143,985,094,819,840,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 558446353793941504:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 558446353793941504:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 558446353793941504:00.02
360,287,970,189,639,680,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 1116892707587883008:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1116892707587883008:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1116892707587883008:00.02
720,575,940,379,279,360,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 2233785415175766016:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 2233785415175766016:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 2233785415175766016:00.02
1,441,151,880,758,558,720,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 4467570830351532032:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 4467570830351532032:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 4467570830351532032:00.02
2,882,303,761,517,117,440,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 8935141660703064064:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 8935141660703064064:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 8935141660703064064:00.02
5,764,607,523,034,234,880,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 17870283321406128128:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 17870283321406128128:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 17870283321406128128:00.02
11,529,215,046,068,469,760,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 35740566642812256256:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 35740566642812256256:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 35740566642812256256:00.02
23,058,430,092,136,939,520,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 71481133285624512512:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 71481133285624512512:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 71481133285624512512:00.02
46,116,860,184,273,879,040,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 142962265712249025024:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 142962265712249025024:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 142962265712249025024:00.02
92,233,720,368,547,758,080,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 285924531424498050048:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 285924531424498050048:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 285924531424498050048:00.02
184,467,440,737,095,516,160,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 571849062848996100096:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 571849062848996100096:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 571849062848996100096:00.02
368,934,881,474,191,032,320,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 1143698125697992200192:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1143698125697992200192:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1143698125697992200192:00.02
737,869,762,948,382,064,640,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 2287396251395984400384:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 2287396251395984400384:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 2287396251395984400384:00.02
1,475,739,525,896,764,129,280,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 4574792502791968800768:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 4574792502791968800768:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 4574792502791968800768:00.02
2,951,479,051,793,528,258,560,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 9149585005583937601536:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 9149585005583937601536:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 9149585005583937601536:00.02
5,902,958,103,587,056,517,120,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 18299170011167875203072:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 18299170011167875203072:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 18299170011167875203072:00.02
11,805,916,207,174,113,032,240,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 36598340022335750406144:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 36598340022335750406144:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 36598340022335750406144:00.02
23,611,832,414,348,226,064,480,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 73196680044671500812288:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 73196680044671500812288:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 73196680044671500812288:00.02
47,223,664,828,696,452,128,960,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 146393360089343001624576:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 146393360089343001624576:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 146393360089343001624576:00.02
94,447,329,657,392,904,257,920,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 292786720178686003249152:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 292786720178686003249152:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 292786720178686003249152:00.02
188,894,659,314,785,808,515,840,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 585573440357372006498304:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 585573440357372006498304:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 585573440357372006498304:00.02
377,789,318,629,571,617,031,680,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 1171146880714744012976608:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1171146880714744012976608:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1171146880714744012976608:00.02
755,578,637,259,143,234,063,360,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 2342293761429488025953216:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 2342293761429488025953216:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 2342293761429488025953216:00.02
1,511,157,274,518,286,468,126,720,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 4684587522858976051906432:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 4684587522858976051906432:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 4684587522858976051906432:00.02
3,022,314,549,036,572,936,253,440,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 9369175045717952103812864:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 9369175045717952103812864:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 9369175045717952103812864:00.02
6,044,629,098,073,145,855,506,880,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 18738350091439042207625728:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 18738350091439042207625728:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 18738350091439042207625728:00.02
12,089,258,196,146,291,711,013,760,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 37476700182878084415251456:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 37476700182878084415251456:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 37476700182878084415251456:00.02
24,178,516,392,292,582,422,027,520,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 74953400365756168830502912:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 74953400365756168830502912:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 74953400365756168830502912:00.02
48,357,032,784,585,164,844,055,040,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 149906800731512337671005824:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 149906800731512337671005824:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 149906800731512337671005824:00.02
96,714,065,569,169,329,689,710,080,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 299813601463024675342011648:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 299813601463024675342011648:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 299813601463024675342011648:00.02
193,428,131,138,338,658,379,420,160,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 599627202926049350684023296:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 599627202926049350684023296:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 599627202926049350684023296:00.02
386,856,262,276,677,316,758,840,320,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 1199254405852098701368046592:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1199254405852098701368046592:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 1199254405852098701368046592:00.02
773,712,524,553,354,433,517,680,640,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 2398508811704197402736093184:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 2398508811704197402736093184:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 2398508811704197402736093184:00.02
1,547,425,048,106,708,867,035,360,1280,000 METRES: 1. T. McKean (GB) 4797017623408394805472186368:00.00 2. S. Brimicombe (GB) 4797017623408394805472186368:00.01 3. S. Brimicombe (GB) 479

Law Report July 8 1985

Council is liable for damage by vandals

Ward v Cannock Chase District Council

Before Mr Justice Scott

[Judgment delivered June 24]

Damage done to the plaintiff's home, by the council, due to neglect and the activities of vandals, of the adjoining house owned by a local authority, and the damage subsequently caused by vandals when the plaintiff's home was unoccupied in consequence of the local authority's failure to repair must be paid for by the local authority.

The damage caused by the vandals being the reasonably foreseeable consequence of the local authority's neglect and failure to repair must be paid for by the local authority.

The council's failure to repair the damage caused on October 9, 1982 was a breach of duty owed to Mr Ward; the council represented by three letters of November 3, that they were about to do the repairs, and they thereby assumed the liability for so doing. It was their duty to carry out the repairs within a reasonable time, and that reason to determine the principle on which the quantum of damages should be fixed by an official referee.

Mr Ward owned Nos 3 and 4 The Mossley, Rugeley, Staffordshire, which were at one end of a row of two-storey, terraced cottages, the rest of which save for No 11 at the other end had been acquired by the council. The Mossley was a backwater of Rugeley, only accessible over a narrow bridge over a canal which was unusable for heavy traffic. It was noted for its isolation and its remoteness, and was incapable of such development unless an alternative access were provided for which there were no current plans.

Evidence showed that it had been attractive as a backwater away from the noise and bustle of the town, but that the council had allowed the 200-year-old cottages to become vacant, had ceased to maintain or repair them, and that damage by vandals had become common.

By 1982 the area had become derelict. The former beauty spot had become an eyesore.

On the night of October 9, 1982, owing to the removal by vandals of its main timber, No 3 collapsed. The crash brought down part of the gable wall and the roof of No 4, which left a gaping hole. On November 3, the council wrote promising imminent repairs, and that was a representation on which Mr Ward was entitled to rely but no steps were taken in fact to repair the damage, and his Lordship had no hesitation in saying that he found that failure both inexplicable and inexcusable.

On December 6, the council building control officer recommended demolition of the whole row, including Mr Ward's property, although he had not been inside to inspect. Expert evidence was given which showed that in fact the state of the property did not justify or require demolition; with some repairs it was likely to have lasted for at least 50 years.

However, the report was accepted by the council, and its chief environmental health officer genuinely felt that there was a danger of collapse, and the council served a notice, which if it had been irregularly made, would have led to demolition.

However the council's assault on Mr Ward's home at The Mossley had not yet ended. On December 10 a letter was written to the social services department of the Staffordshire County Council, which led to the county council starting proceedings against Mr and Mrs Ward in the magistrates' court, seeking a place of safety order, requiring the removal of their eight children from the property and prohibiting their return. Behind the application by a threat that otherwise the Ward children would be taken into care.

The place of safety order was made, but to prevent the children being taken into care, Mr Ward consented to his wife and children moving into a three-bedroomed council house, whose grossly inadequate accommodation resulted in gross overcrowding. Mr Ward continued to attempt to live in his own house, in the continued danger of vandalism. But the electricity had been cut off, there was still a hole in the roof and winter was at hand.

Because no repairs had been undertaken, on December 22, 1982, Mr Ward commenced county court proceedings, and obtained a strongly worded interlocutory mandatory order for repairs against the council. Mr Ward's battle seemed to be over, but his victory was short-lived.

That night he celebrated his victory with his family in the council house to which they had moved, for once leaving his own house unoccupied, which thus allowed vandals to do further damage to his roof.

When council workmen arrived there next morning to start the repairs ordered by the county court, they found that the damage done by the vandals became apparent, and the council representatives refused to do the necessary repairs.

Instead a polythene sheet was placed temporarily over the hole in the roof, and no repairs were done then or thereafter. Because of the council's claim that they were not responsible for the vandalism, Mr Ward's advisers agreed to the temporary cover.

After more vandalism, Mr Ward gave up his vain attempt to continue living in his house, and thereafter the condition of the property rapidly deteriorated, becoming beyond repair by July 13, 1983. On December 13, 1983 a dangerous structure notice was served on Mr Ward calling on him to remove all brickwork and timbers down to first-floor level.

The council gave notice on January 4, 1984 of its intention to seek possession of the council house where they were living, for non-payment of rent, the council not having paid a penny damages to him.

Nos 3 and 4 The Mossley were eventually demolished by the council pursuant to an undertaking given to Mr Justice Whitford.

Such was the sad history of Nos 3 and 4 The Mossley, but his Lordship must not allow his sympathy for Mr Ward and his indignation at the treatment accorded to him by the council to distort his view of the relevant law on the difficult questions raised.

Although from a local authority point of view Mr Ward's presence and his activities on the site might have been anathema to the council, nothing justified or explained their conduct towards him since October 9, 1982, when their neglect caused serious damage to his property, which, however, could have been cheaply and speedily repaired.

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Mr Justice Woolf said on June 27 in an action in the Queen's Bench

COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCING £10,000

If you have experience of commercial conveyancing and good PA and secretarial experience, then this could be a fulfilling and rewarding job. It is working for the Senior Conveyancing Partner of a small but substantial and go-ahead firm of W.I. Solicitors. He is late 40s, urbane with a good sense of humour and a very busy way of life. He requires a competent PA/Secretary who can help him in the conveyancing side as well as giving a total PA and Secretarial support service. A friendly team environment with a firm that cares for their staff. 100% job security. Excellent benefits and bonus.

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Required to run small, well-appointed Knightsbridge office building & provide full range of secretarial services for visiting Directors, of International Group of Companies. Must be intelligent, mature personality, who can take responsibility, including handling office letting arrangements, finance (banks, budgets, bookkeeping, PAYE). Salary £9,000 negotiable. Please send C.V. with photo.

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One of the largest Merchant Banks in the City is looking for an Administrator for their secretarial. Your work will be highly confidential, you will be one of a team of four which acts as a central information service on client companies and processes all incoming and outgoing correspondence, in order to prepare reports for the senior directors. The company has many new offices near Queen Street and offers excellent benefits. If you have 'A' level, 60+ typing and are aged 22-28 with a working knowledge of French plus German / Spanish or Italian please ring 588 3535

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This rapidly expanding publisher Co. are looking for a good partner to enjoy a key role working for a senior executive. Ideally someone 24-30 with rusty 50+ wpm and 100% accuracy. Full-time.

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Ring Updown Personnel 01-828 2727

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Successful candidates will have at least 4 years' secretarial experience within a busy commercial or professional environment combined with initiative, a mature and enquiring mind and a genuine interest in the business.

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In view of the retirement of the present Personal Assistant in mid October, the Association wishes to engage a replacement in early August to enable a satisfactory hand over to be achieved.

Candidates will be required to work in a department dealing with finance, training, property and general administrative matters where all hard secretarial and typing skills in a high standard are required. The successful candidate will observe fairness, tact and utmost confidentiality. A knowledge of the Association structure, aims and objectives will be an added advantage. Benefits include London weighting, 10 hours holiday vouchers and 4 weeks holiday per annum.

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Ideally you should possess a comprehensive range of secretarial skills and experience and have the confidence to deal with clients and handle administrative tasks with ease.

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Julia Gray
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Smartest secretarial people
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Kralj v McGrath and St Theresa's Hospital

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Mr Justice Woolf said on June 27 in an action in the Queen's Bench

Division for medical negligence against two defendants, who admitted liability, that if the plaintiff failed to have a fourth child she would be saved that expense, but in fact she would feel worse off. The injuries she suffered would seem greater and therefore an award would be made to account for that possible loss.

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Trade 01-278 9161/5

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Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Dayalle

CHOICE

Narcissus: Holloway's The
noon's response. 1
Bach's 48: Book 2 (Prelude and
Fugue in D minor, F minor, B flat,
C major and E flat Played by
Andreas Schiff (piano). 1
Vivaldi: Cello Concertos: Heinrich
Schiff (cello) with Academy of St
Martin-in-the-Fields (under Iona
Brown). Concertos in A minor, RV
418; and in C minor, RV 401.
News 12.00 Closedown
VHF only: Open University.
From 6.35 to 6.55pm: The Mid-
Sixties (2).

BBC 2

Radio 2

lines 5.30am, 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30.
 am Martin Keener, 6.00 Play
 8.05 am Brian Eno, 10.00 Jimmy
 10.05 pm Sports Desk; David
 10.05 am 2.02 Sports Desk, 3.30
 4.05 David Hamilton's Darts, 5.00
 Sports Desk, 6.05 John Dunn, 6.05
 Sports Desk, 7.00 News, 7.15
 7.30 Cricket Scoreboard, 8.00 Alan
 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton with the
 of jazz, 9.55 Sports Desk, 10.00
 Search Warrant, 10.30 On
 11.00 Quiz covering 60 years of radio
 11.00 Brian Matthew presents
 and Midnight (start from midnight).

The Medicine Men. The

Radio 1

pm Paul Jordan, 8.00 Mike Smith.
Simon Bates' Golden Hour.
Radio 1 News, 12.00 John Peel.
Break, 12.45 Gary Davies, 2.30
Night. 5.00 Bruno Brookes incl.
Wright. 7.30 Janice Long.
12.00 John Peel.
12.45 and 2.40 am With Radio 2.
3pm With Radio 1, 12.00-4.00 am
Radio 2

WORLD SERVICE

World-News 6.30 You and Your Memory.
World-News 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours.
Search and Company, 8.00 World News.
Reflections, 8.15 A Lite, 9.30 Anything
8.00 World News, 9.09 Review of the
Press, 9.15 God Book, 9.30 Financial
Review, 9.45 World-News, 10.00
10.00 News Summary, 10.01 Financial

ard and plays some favourite
ds.

11.00 World News, 11.09 News
 11.15 News, 11.20 News
 11.25 12.15 Brian of Britain 1963, 12.55
 Roundup, 1.00 World News, 1.25
 News, 1.30 News, 1.35 News, 1.40
 2.25 Cricket's 100th Radio News
 2.31 Mary's Music Box, 3.45 View of
 the Week, 4.00 News, 4.05 News, 4.09
 Fantasy 4.15 A Future for the Past? 7.45
 A Choice, 8.00 World News, 8.09
 News, 8.15 News, 8.20 News, 8.25
 8.30 Summary, 8.35 Network UK, 8.45
 of the Seventies, 9.30 Roundup, 9.35
 World News, 10.05 The World Today,
 10.10 Book Review, 10.15 News, 10.20
 Reflections, 10.45 Sports Roundup,
 10.50 World News, 11.09 Commentary 11.15
 News, 11.20 News, 11.25 News, 11.30
 12.00 World News, 12.09 News Roundup,
 12.15 Radio News, 12.20 Sarah and
 John, 1.15 News, 1.20 News, 1.25
 Story, 1.45 A Future for the Past,
 2.15 World News, 2.20 Review of the British
 2.18 Hanson UK, 2.30 Sports
 2.35 News, 2.40 News, 2.45 News, 2.50
 Britain 3.15 The World Today, 4.45
 News, 4.55 The World Today, 5.00 World
 News, 5.05 News, 5.10 News, 5.15

Radio 3

THE TEES As London except:
9:25am News, 5:30
me Suzel, 10:25 World we live in,
Charlie Byrd, 11:20-11:30
on, 1:20pm News, 1:30
ofbeat: 2:30 Cartoon, 3:00-3:30
ations with Nancy,
ceptions, 6:00 News, 6:02 For
6, 30-7:00 Northern Lite, 5:90
Quincy, 10:32 Champions, 11:30
Everyday, Closedown.

ANANDA As London except:
9:25am Once upon a
man, 5:30 The jungle with the
11:25 Paint along with Nancy,
11:30 Tarzan, 1:20pm News,
1:30, 2:00 Teachers only, 2:30
Story: Impression, 3:30-4:00
and 4:15-4:30 Comedy Cartoons,
Flying start! 85, 6:30-7:00 Granada's
10, 30 Week tonight, 11:15
by Miller, 11:45 Snooker, 12:30am

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATION

OTTISH As London expects:
 12.35am Sex-mag Street
 Carillon, 10.35-11.30 Fall Guy,
 M News, 1.30 Monday Time, 1.35
 Neptune Farm (Winter Sides)
 and 10.35 Jackie Farnham, 1.15-1.45
 Neptune Farm, 5.00 News and
 Today, 6.30-7.00 For Valour,
 and 10.00 Onco, 10.30 Crime Desk.
 Late Call, 10.40 Film: Voices
 (Huntz, 12.10am Closedown,
 12.10am Closedown.

TRITAL As London expects:
 12.35am Sex-mag Street, 1.35
 Carillon and Jenny, 10.15 Challenges,
 1.30-3.30 Being Strong, 1.20pm
 1.10-3.10 Film: Tunes of Glory
 Guinness, 5.15-5.45 Connections,
 5.45-6.15 News, 6.15-6.30 News, 10.35
 We Want the Olympics, 11.35
 12.25am Late Call, 12.45
 down.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
 * Black and white, (r) Repeat

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

[illegible]

CONCERTS

NON-RESIDENTS SQUARE (930
511-1111) 500 S. 200th St.
VIEWER TO A HILL (PG) See page
10. Shows open daily 1:00, 4:15, 7:45.
Late night show live - Sat Doors
open 11:15pm. Advance booking for
all shows. Access and Visa phone
bookings welcome. Credit Hot Line
393 3929, 24 hour service. 2500
seats available Monday all perfs.

ART GALLERIES

THOMAS DUFFAY 9 and 23 Dorling
L. W. DAVID SMITH. Sculpture &
drawings. 629 5778.

also on page 26

ART GALLERY

also on page 26

